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Let's

ISSUE 90 MAR 2015

knit

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ISSUE 90 MAR 2015 £5.99



NO 1 FOR
QUICK MAKES



PATTERNS

Let's
knit
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Cardi by
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Cabled set in
**BRITISH
WOOL**



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Projects in Your Favourite Yarns

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**READ
THIS!**

KNIT ALONG BLANKET
PART 3 INSIDE

SHOPPING SPECIAL
ARTISAN YARNS

YARN SHOP DAY 2015
SEE DETAILS INSIDE!



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Pattern: Fitted Jacket
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welcome to *Let's* knit

Meet the team...



DEPUTY EDITOR
Adrienne Chandler
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@aceville.co.uk

This month...

I explore the knitty wonders of the north west of England (p31) and show you how to do the basic crochet stitches (p89).

My favourite project...
Cobalt Daze, p44



EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
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This month...

I've been finding out just why our local yarn shops are so important to you (p67) and sourcing

beautiful yarns from some fabulous indie dyers (p56).

My favourite project...
Harriet the Hedgehog (p37)



It's Yarn Shop day on 2nd May 2015. Turn to page 81 for a list of the latest stores that are taking part

Need to get in touch?

Pattern queries:
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email julie.freestone@aceville.co.uk

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call 01795 414715 or email
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Now that chilly winter has begun to give way to **sunnier spring** and we no longer need our chunky scarves and cosy hats, it can be difficult to think what to knit next. Never fear, as we've got heaps of **brilliant ideas** for knitting through spring and beyond! As well as no less than 20 patterns to make with your **bonus** Easter yarn

kit, we've got a great collection of **stylish homewares** in this **bumper issue**, from Helen Ardley's simple blanket on page 34 to Monica Russel's intricate cabled **living room set** on page 46. If you're after something wearable we've got some **lovely garments** for you; Pat Menchini's denim-coloured sweater is great for beginners, whilst Martin Storey's elegant wrap top is perfect for those who **like a challenge**. And, of course, there's another classic toy from Val Pierce – this month it's **Flora the Turtle** (p16), already a firm favourite with our Facebook community who chose her name!

Regular readers will know that we're year-round supporters of bricks-and-mortar yarn stores, through our Love Your Yarn Shop campaign. **Excitement** is now building as we've just announced the date of this year's **Yarn Shop Day** – Saturday 2nd May! Find out what customers love about some of the shops that are taking part on page 67.

Happy knitting!

Sarah

sarah.neal@aceville.co.uk



Cobalt Daze (p44) is just one of the stylish homeware projects in this issue



Our Easter themed photoshoot gave us the chance to indulge in some tasty treats



We meet spinner and dyer Susan Heath and her lovely sheep (p62)



Sheep-themed chocolate buttons, p10



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DISCLAIMER: We recommend that readers use the main specified yarn for every project as this will produce the best results. The alternatives given are suggestions only, and as no two yarns are exactly the same we advise readers to swatch an alternative yarn carefully before choosing to use it for their project. The publishers are not responsible for any safety issues arising from any items knitted from patterns contained within Let's Knit magazine. Prices are all correct at time of print.

Let's knit

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**BONUS
GIFT!**



Our biggest yarn kit yet -
show off your skills with
all five balls!



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Who
cares?
...We do!

At Let's Knit we understand that nothing is more annoying than errors in knitting patterns. As part of our total commitment to ensuring that your experience of our magazine is as enjoyable as possible, we're proud to offer

THE LET'S KNIT

PATTERN PROMISE:

- Exclusive patterns featured in Let's Knit have been professionally checked and reproduced with the utmost care. Updates can be found at www.letsknit.co.uk
- Should you encounter any problems we are more than happy to provide support and assistance. Contact us and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

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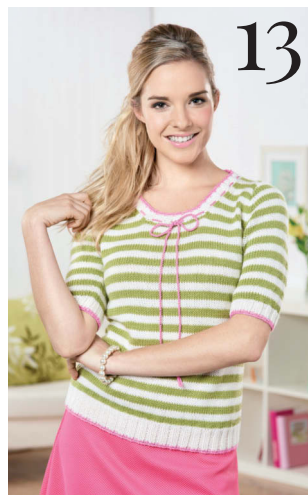
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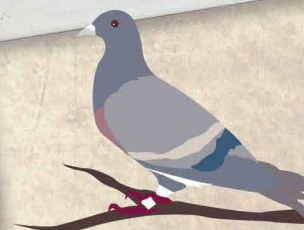


reared, sheared & spun

IN BRITAIN



WOOD PIGEON



PHEASANT



Choose from 20 fabulous projects to knit or crochet!

Find the patterns for a whole raft of quick makes from Amanda Berry and Liz Ward in your Easter Collection booklet.

Your BUMPER KIT

FREE PATTERN DOWNLOADS

Head online to www.letsknit.co.uk to access these brilliant bonus patterns



Bramble Bunny and outfits



Bunny comforter



Let's
knit
Best for
free gifts!

Make & Share

We love seeing what you've made with your free yarn kit. Share your photos with us on Facebook and Twitter, or email molly.todd@aceville.co.uk.



Last month you had a go at our beginners' lace patterns



Hazel Millican Chaffey



@meekjacqueline



HEADS UP

Sign up to the Yarn Stories newsletter and download this gorgeous hat pattern for free! Designed by Juliet Bernard, it's knitted in the sumptuously soft Yarn Stories Fine Merino DK. Once registered, you'll be entered into a draw to win the yarn needed in the colours of your choice. Find out more at www.yarnstories.com

Let's knit LOVES...

OUR ROUND-UP OF WHAT'S HOT IN THE KNITTING UNIVERSE

Time to sparkle

Introducing Reflet, a brand new yarn from Berge de France. This organic cotton yarn is plied with metallic polyester threads to add a glitzy finish to your summer knits. It has an RRP of £7.50 per 100g (300m) ball, visit www.bergerede-france.co.uk for stockists.



WIN
new season yarns
from Berge de
France! Turn
to page 91!



Spring fever

Get ready for the new season with gorgeous warm-weather knits. This lovely lacy sleeveless top, called Zarah, is featured in the new Rowan Magazine, on sale now. The collection is filled with garments that are cool to wear and drape beautifully. Call 01484 681881 or go to www.knitrowan.com to find a stockist near you.



SUPER TED

Knitted in British wool, this handsome fellow is sure to be a hit with teddy bear fans of all ages. The kit includes yarn, pattern, stuffing, buttons and tapestry needle. £26.50, 07786 558045, www.woollychicdesigns.co.uk

Did you know?

According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2015 is the Year of the Sheep. Chinese New Year began on the 19th February – Happy New Year, everyone!

Love and hugs

Big Merino Hug from Rosy Green is not only fabulously soft, but also wholly organic, as certified by the Global Organic Textile Standard – and it's machine washable! What's not to love? The wool fibres are from the Patagonia region of South America, and they are then spun at The Natural Fibre Company right here in the UK. It costs £13.50 per 100g (160m) skein from **01566 777635**, www.blackeryarns.co.uk



HEY BABY

Treat your little one like royalty with these adorable jumpers from LK designer Ruth Maddock. They're knitted in Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino; the pattern costs £3 and is available from www.etsy.com/uk/shop/ruthmaddock

CHARITY WE LOVE...



SPANNA

International animal charity, SPANNA, has launched its 'Big Knit for Vet Kit' campaign, supported by model and knitter, Twigg. The organisation is calling on knitters and crocheters to make cute characters – including new addition, Oscar the Ox – and get sponsored for their efforts. The money raised will help provide free veterinary treatments for working animals in developing countries. To learn more and order your knitting pack, call **0207 831 3999** or visit www.spanna.org/knit

UP IN THE AIR

Try learning to crochet with the adorable Big Book of Little Amigurumi (Martingale & Company, Roundhouse Group), a brilliant collection of Ana Paula Rimoli's cutest patterns. From animals to food, there are 72 amazing projects to choose from – perfect for toy lovers! RRP £18.99, www.amazon.co.uk



GET HOOKED!

Learn the basics of our sister craft with this brilliant Crochet Starter Kit from Doodlestop. It includes a custom-made crochet hook from Fleabubs, cotton yarn, handmade stitch markers, thread snippers, tapestry needle and a little project bag. Choose from pink, peacock or blue colourways. Each kit costs £22.50, www.doodlestop.co.uk



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Keep your cable needles in easy reach with these brilliant wrist cuffs from Funky Needles, £4.99, www.funkyneedles.co.uk





This Month's TOP BUY

Indulge yourself this Easter with these adorable sheep-themed chocolate buttons from Toftly Treats! Handmade from your choice of milk or white Belgian chocolate, these scrumptious sweets are adorned with every knitter's favourite fluffy friend. They even come sealed in their own vintage style jar, perfect for storing your new confectionery – if you can resist them for that long! One 110g jar of buttons costs £4 from **01751 476126**, www.toftlytreats.co.uk



*This little lady is all set to celebrate the start of spring! Get the pattern for Party Bunny and more from Val Pierce's book *Knitted Rabbits*, £9.99, www.searchpress.com*

March IS THE MONTH...

...OF CHOCOLATE EGGS AND EASTER KNITS!

This Month's MUST VISIT

The biggest show of the crafting calendar is back, and it's bigger and better than ever! The Spring Knitting and Stitching show takes place on the 5th-8th of March at Olympia Central in London and has a wealth of creative goodies on offer for stitchers of all abilities. With over 200 exhibitors selling everything from yarn and patterns to needles and hooks, make sure you try out at least one of the 140 workshops taking place across the three day event. We have the fabulous Deramores with us on our stall this year, so why not pay us a visit? Go to www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com/spring to book tickets or call **0844 848 0155**.

The Spring
**Knitting
& Stitching**
Show



THIS MONTH We're knitting

Editorial assistant Molly has made this super-snug stripy scarf! "The person I knitted this for supports Norwich City Football Club – hence the cheerful yellow and green colour scheme!"



DATES FOR *March*



WE ASKED *our readers*

Out of everything you've ever knitted or crocheted, what is your favourite project?

JEN TRAFFORD

I made Debbie Abrahams' Floor Coverings blanket. It took me seven months and more sewing than I care to think about, but it is by far my favourite project.

IRENE CRAIG

I'm too fickle to choose - it's whatever project I have just finished!

JENNIFER 'NAPGIRL' MAY

It's got to be my first ever jumper. I finished it in July and refused to take it off all summer!

WHAT'S HOT ON THE LK WEBSITE

Love lacy knits? Then you won't be able to resist Anniken Allis's gorgeous cropped t-shirt, free to download over on the LK site! Effortlessly pretty and stylish, too, it's an all-year round garment that's perfect for both winter layers and simple summer outfits.



MARTINE *makes*

GUERNSEY GIRL MARTINE IS A BLOGGER, TEACHER, KNITWEAR DESIGNER AND REMARKABLY AVERAGE UKULELE PLAYER. FIND OUT MORE ON HER POPULAR CREATIVE LIFESTYLE BLOG AND PODCAST, IMAKE AT WWW.IMAKEGSY.COM

Off the needles

Recently I cast off the "My Favourite Things" infinity scarf. The pattern is by Jill McGee and I'm thrilled with mine - it's one-of-a-kind as I chose all of the Fair Isle motifs myself. The result is something quite unique - it's definitely one of my favourite knitted items. If you'd like to knit your own "My Favourite Things" scarf, the knitalong is still running - pop along to the iMake Ravelry group and get knitting!



Pebble knitting

Now that my scarf is finished, there is clearly a gap in my life for another knit or crochet-along. So, in typical Martine style, I found a pattern I liked and invited people to join me. The pattern is called Pebble Rug by Inga Hamilton and it is a wonderful, structural rug made up of crochet or knitted pebbles in a variety of sizes. The pebbles are felted and then joined together to create a rug. It's a



wonderful stash-busting project and, because there are other people making this rug at the same time, there is the opportunity for yarn swaps or even pebble swaps!

Yarn diet update

Confession time: I have fallen off the wagon a bit... actually, quite a lot! Having busted some stash for my Pebble Rug I found myself acquiring more yarn in pebbly colours. As the project uses quite a lot of yarn, I needed to choose something inexpensive, but it had to be 100% wool for felting purposes. I opted for Drops Eskimo - it's a superchunky, single strand yarn which comes in a wide range of shades. There's more... I had a single skein of Erika Knight's Fur Wool languishing in my stash, so I simply had to buy a skein of her Maxi Wool so that I might combine the two and make a lovely pair of Furry Wellie Toppers. Oh, and I also seem to have accidentally acquired a large number of balls of Rico Essentials Merino DK in a variety of neutral shades for yet another blanket. Oops!

TTFN
Martine XOX

Pick from the LK BLOG

It was Chinese New Year on February 19th, so to celebrate we've rounded up some of our all time favourite patterns of our fluffy friends. Head over to www.letsknit.co.uk to read all about it - isn't Barbara the sheep adorable?





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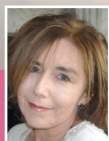
VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.RICO-DESIGN.CO.UK

Shamrock Dream

EXCLUSIVE TO
Let's
knit

*Get ready for the new season
with Siân Brown's classic
striped top*

St. Patrick's Day is on March 17th, so why not get into the spirit of things with this pretty springtime garment? With its elbow-length sleeves and subtle hint of magenta around the hem, it's a simple top that will be great to wear with a summer skirt or a pair of jeans. The pretty pink bow on the neckline is a feminine, finishing touch, and the green and white stripes give a modern twist to the traditional nautical look.



meet our
DESIGNER

"The fresh coloured stripes in this top update the well-known maritime style. The soft yarn, flattering neckline and brightly coloured tie make this a good choice for early spring."

SIÂN BROWN

Measurements & sizes

Dress size (approx):

8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22)

Actual chest (cm):

87 (93, 99, 104, 110, 116, 122, 127)

Length to shoulder (cm):

55 (56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62)

Sleeve length (cm):

15 (15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rooster Almerino DK, (A) shade 201 Cornish, 4 (4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6) 50g balls (B) shade 207 Gooseberry, 3 (3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5) 50g balls, (C) shade 211 Brighton Rock, one 50g ball

Needles: 3.25mm, 3.75mm, 4mm
Stitch holders

Tension Square

21 sts x 28 rows

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rooster Almerino DK is a super-soft blend of 50% alpaca and 50% merino wool. It is slightly twisted to give it good stitch definition and comes in 20 shades.

Need an alternative?

Rowan Wool Cotton DK is made from 50% cotton and 50% merino wool yarn. It is kind to even sensitive skin and is available in over 20 colours.

Let's Shop

Rooster Almerino DK has an RRP of £5.40 per 50g (112.5m) ball, for stockists go to 01829 740903, www.roosteryarns.com

Rowan Wool Cotton DK costs £6.25 per 50g (113m) ball from 0131 558 1747, www.mcadirect.com

STRIPE SEQUENCE

- ☐ Work four rows in yarn B
- Change to yarn A
- ☐ Work four rows in yarn A
- Change to yarn B
- These eight rows set stripe sequence

Start knitting here

BACK

- ** Using 3.75mm needles and yarn C, cast on 90 (98, 102, 110, 114, 122, 126, 134) sts
- ☐ Row 1: k2, [p2, k2] to end
- Cut yarn C and cont in yarn A only
- ☐ Row 2: p2, [k2, p2] to end
- Rows 1-2 set 2x2 rib

FIRST, THIRD, FIFTH AND SEVENTH SIZES ONLY

- ☐ Rows 3-16: work in 2x2 rib for a further 14 rows inc two sts evenly across last row. 92 (-, 104, -, 116, -, 128, -) sts

SECOND, FOURTH, SIXTH AND EIGHTH SIZES ONLY

- ☐ Rows 3-16: work in 2x2 rib for a further 14 rows

ALL SIZES

- Change to 4mm needles
- Working in Stripe sequence as set, work as folls:
- ☐ Rows 17-22: beg with a k row, work in st st

- ☐ Row 23: k3, skpo, k to last five sts, k2tog, k3. 90 (96, 102, 108, 114, 120, 126, 132) sts
- ☐ Rows 24-28: work in st st
- ☐ Rep the last six rows four times more and Row 23 once more. 80 (86, 92, 98, 104, 110, 116, 122) sts
- ☐ Work 11 rows in st st
- ☐ Next row: k3, m1, k to last three sts, m1, k3. 82 (88, 94, 100, 106, 112, 118, 124) sts
- ☐ Work five rows in st st
- ☐ Rep the last six rows five times more and the inc row once more. 94 (100, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130, 136) sts
- ☐ Cont in st st without shaping until Back meas 37cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

- ☐ Cast off 7 (7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9) sts at beg of next two rows. 80 (86, 92, 96, 102, 108, 112, 118) sts
- ☐ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 78 (84, 90, 94, 100, 106, 110, 116) sts
- ☐ Next row: p
- ☐ Rep the last two rows 4 (5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 8, 9) times more. 70 (74, 78, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98) sts **
- ☐ Cont in st st without shaping until armhole meas 18 (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)cm ending after a WS row

SHAPE SHOULDERS

- ☐ Cast off 5 (6, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10, 11) sts at beg of next two rows and 6 (7, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10, 11) sts at beg of foll two rows.

48 (48, 50, 50, 52, 52, 54, 54) sts
Place sts on holder

FRONT

- ☐ Work as for Back from ** to **

SHAPE LEFT NECK

- ☐ Next row: k25 (27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36) sts, turn, work on these sts for first side of neck shaping as folls:
- ☐ Next row: p
- ☐ Next row: k to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 24 (26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35) sts
- ☐ Next row: p
- ☐ Rep the last two rows 13 times more. 11 (13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22) sts
- ☐ Cont in st st until armhole meas same as Back to shoulder shaping, ending at armhole edge

SHAPE LEFT SHOULDER

- ☐ Next row: cast off 5 (6, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10, 11) sts, k to end. 6 (7, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10, 11) sts
- ☐ Work one row
- ☐ Cast off

SHAPE RIGHT NECK

- With RS facing, place centre 20 (20, 22, 22, 24, 24, 26, 26) sts on holder, rejoin yarn to rem 25 (27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36) sts
- ☐ Beg with a k row, work two rows in st st
- ☐ Next row: k2, skpo, k to end. 24 (26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35) sts
- ☐ Next row: p
- ☐ Rep the last two rows 13 times more. 11 (13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22) sts
- ☐ Work straight until armhole meas same as Back to shoulder shaping, ending at armhole edge

SHAPE RIGHT SHOULDER

- ☐ Next row: cast off 5 (6, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10, 11) sts, p to end. 6 (7, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10, 11) sts
- ☐ Work one row
- ☐ Cast off

"Remember to change yarn shades every four rows, or your new top won't have the stripe effect running throughout."

LK Editorial Assistant **Molly Todd**



knitwise

Eye see you

Eyelets are often used in knitting to give garments a lacy texture, or they can serve a more functional role as buttonholes or for threading a decorative cord, just like in this pattern. They are formed by wrapping the working yarn around the needle between two stitches to make an extra stitch, then working the next two stitches together. This forms a hole in your work, which becomes the eyelet.



Skirt from a selection at H&M, bracelet, £8.99, TK Maxx

SLEEVES

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn C, cast on 56 (60, 64, 68, 72, 76, 80, 84) sts

□ Row 1: [k2, p2] to end

Row 1 sets 2x2 rib

Cut yarn C and cont in yarn A only

□ Rows 2-10: work in 2x2 rib

Change to 4mm needles

Working in Stripe sequence as set, work as follows:

□ Rows 11-14: beg with a k row, work in st st

□ Row 15: k3, m1, k to last three sts, m1, k3. 58 (62, 66, 70, 74, 78, 82, 86) sts

□ Work three rows in st st

□ Rep the last four rows five times more and the inc row once more. 70 (74, 78, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98) sts

□ Cont without shaping until

Sleeve meas approx 15cm from cast on edge, ending after a p row, matching patt row on Back before Shape armholes

SHAPE SLEEVE TOP

□ Cast off 7 (7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9) sts at beg of the next two rows. 56 (60, 64, 66, 70, 74, 76, 80) sts

□ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 54 (58, 62, 64, 68, 72, 74, 78) sts

□ Next row: p

□ Rep the last two rows 12 (13, 14, 14, 15, 16, 16, 17) times more. 30 (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44) sts

□ Cast off three sts at beg of next six rows. 12 (14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26) sts

□ Cast off

NECKBAND

Join right shoulder seam

□ Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, pick up and k 35 (35, 37, 37, 39, 39, 41, 41) sts down left side of Front neck, k20 (20, 22, 22, 24, 24, 26, 26) sts from centre Front neck, pick up and k 35 (35, 37, 37, 39, 39, 41, 41) sts up right Front neck, k48 (48, 50, 50, 52, 52, 54, 54) sts from Back neck holder. 138 (138, 146, 146, 154, 154, 162, 162) sts

□ Row 1: k2, [p2, k2] to end

□ Row 2: p2, [k2, p2] to end

Rows 1-2 set 2x2 rib

□ Row 3: k2, [yrm, p2tog, k2] to end

□ Rows 4-8: work in 2x2 rib

Cut yarn A and change to yarn C

□ Row 9: rib to end

□ Cast off in rib

To make up

Join left shoulder and Neckband. Join side and Sleeve seams. Sew Sleeves into armholes, easing to fit. Using yarn C, make a twisted cord measuring 130cm, thread through eyelets and tie in a bow at centre Front **LK**

Measurements & Sizes

Length: 56cm

Tension Square

14 sts x 19 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
6mm needles

Knit Kit

Yarn: Robin Chunky, (A) shade 79 Pistachio, (B) shade 131 Cinnamon, (C) shade 133 Marigold, (D) shade 35 Oatmeal, one 100g ball of each, oddments of DK yarn in gold, rust, green and black

Needles: 4mm, 6mm

Cable needle

Toy stuffing

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Special Abbreviations

C8B: slip four stitches onto cable needle, hold at back of work, k4, k4 from cable needle

About the Yarn

Robin Chunky is made from 100% premium acrylic. It comes in over 25 colours, from muted pastels to beautiful brights.

Need an Alternative?

Hayfield Bonus Chunky is another pure acrylic yarn. Choose from a selection of 29 shades, including vibrant bolds and more natural hues.

Let's Shop

Robin Chunky costs £1.70 per 100g (140m) ball from 07974 954663, www.awoollytail.com

Hayfield Bonus Chunky costs £1.90 per 100g (137m) ball from 01226 379025, www.woolmonkey.co.uk

Flora the Turtle

Make the perfect pal for any boy or girl with our exclusive pattern by Val Pierce

She's supposed to be for kids, but here at LK headquarters we all want a Flora for ourselves! A comfy companion who doubles as a quirky pillow, she's knitted predominantly in simple stocking stitch, with both a chunky cabled border and a spring-themed flower adorning her colourful shell. She's a safe bet for children of all ages, provided everything is stitched securely in place.

Start knitting here

SHELL

Using 6mm needles and yarn A, cast on 12 sts
☐ Rows 1-12: beg with a p (WS) row, work in st st inc one st at each end of every RS row. 24 sts
 Cut yarn A and change to yarn B
☐ Rows 13-17: beg with a p row, work in st st inc one st at each end of every alt row. 28 sts
☐ Row 18: * k3, kfb in next st, rep from * to end. 35 sts
☐ Rows 19-21: beg with a p row, work in st st
 Cut yarn B and change to yarn C
☐ Rows 22-23: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 24: * k4, kfb in next st, rep from * to end. 42 sts
☐ Rows 25-31: beg with a p row, work in st st
 Cut yarn C and change to yarn A
☐ Rows 32-41: beg with a k row, work in st st
 Cut yarn A and change to yarn C
☐ Rows 42-47: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 48: * k4, skpo, rep from * to end. 35 sts
☐ Row 49: p
 Cut yarn C and change to yarn B
☐ Rows 50-53: beg with a k row, work in st st
☐ Row 54: * k3, skpo, rep from * to end. 28 sts
☐ Row 55-57: beg with a p row, work in st st
 Cut yarn B and change to yarn A
☐ Rows 58-66: beg with a k row, work in st st dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. 18 sts
☐ Row 67: p
☐ Row 68: * k1, k2tog, rep from * to end. 12 sts
☐ Cast off

BASE

Using 6mm needles and yarn D, cast on 12 sts
☐ Rows 1-17: beg with a p (WS) row, work in st st inc one st at each end of every RS row. 28 sts
☐ Row 18: * k3, kfb in next st, rep from * to end. 35 sts
☐ Rows 19-51: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 52: * k3, skpo, rep from * to end. 28 sts
☐ Rows 53-62: beg with a p row, work in st st dec one st at each end of every foll RS row. 18 sts
☐ Row 63: p
☐ Row 64: * k1, k2tog, rep from * to end. 12 sts
☐ Cast off

HEAD

Using 6mm needles and yarn D, cast on ten sts
☐ Row 1 and every WS row: p
☐ Row 2: kfb in every st to end. 20 sts
☐ Row 4: * k1, kfb in next st, rep from * to end. 30 sts
☐ Row 6: * k2, kfb in next st, rep from * to end. 40 sts
☐ Rows 7-19: beg with a p row, work in st st
☐ Row 20: * k2, k2tog, rep from * to end. 30 sts
☐ Row 22: * k1, k2tog, rep from * to end. 20 sts
☐ Row 24: (k2tog) to end. Ten sts
☐ Row 25: p
☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off



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Let's
knit

"We had lots of fantastic entries from our readers when we asked you to name our turtle – a big thanks to Louisa Rose Cheslock-Frykholm for the winning name!"

LK Editorial Assistant **Molly Todd**



meet our
DESIGNER

"I have used autumn shades to create this happy turtle, but you could use any colour combination you like. Blues would look great for boys or try a mixture of purple and pink for girls – the choices are endless!"

VAL PIERCE

Stuff it

Stuffing your toy might be one of the last steps towards the completion of your knitted friend, but it's not something that should be done in a rush. Take your time when filling your near-finished turtle: tease apart larger pieces of stuffing to avoid any hard lumps and bumps, and make sure you stuff as you sew to avoid creating those pesky, hard-to-reach places.

LEGS (make four)

Using 6mm needles and yarn A, cast on eight sts

- ☐ ** Row 1 and every WS row: p
- ☐ Row 2: kfb in every st to end. 16 sts
- ☐ Row 4: * k1, kfb in next st, rep from * to end. 24 sts **
- ☐ Rows 5-15: beg with a p row, work in st st
- ☐ Row 16: * k2, skpo, rep from * to end. 18 sts
- ☐ Row 18: * k1, skpo, rep from * to end. 12 sts
- ☐ Row 19: p
- ☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

TAIL

Using 6mm needles and yarn A, cast on six sts

- ☐ Work as for Legs from ** to **. 18 sts
- ☐ Rows 5-7: beg with a p row, work in st st
- ☐ Row 8: * k2, kfb in next st, rep from * to end. 24 sts
- ☐ Row 9-15: beg with a p row, work in st st
- ☐ Cast off

SHELL EDGING

Using 6mm needles and yarn C, cast on ten sts

- ☐ Row 1: k to end
- ☐ Row 2: k1, p8, k1
- ☐ *** Row 3: k1, C8B, k1

- ☐ Row 4: k1, p8, k1
 - ☐ Rep Rows 1-2 four times more ***
 - ☐ Rep from *** to *** until edging fits around outside of Shell, ending after a WS row
- NOTE: Remember when measuring the edging to leave a space of approximately 7cm to attach Head to Shell**
- ☐ Cast off

FLOWER PETALS (make five)

Using 4mm needles and oddment of gold DK yarn, cast on eight sts

- ☐ Rows 1-2: k
- ☐ Row 3: k to end inc one st at each end of row. Ten sts
- ☐ Rows 4-5: rep Rows 2-3. 12 sts
- ☐ Rows 6-13: k
- ☐ Work in garter st dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row until two sts rem
- ☐ Next row: k2tog. One st
- ☐ Fasten off

CENTRE

Using 4mm needles and oddment of rust DK yarn, cast on eight sts

- ☐ Rows 1-2: k
- ☐ Rows 3-9: work in garter st inc one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. 16 sts
- ☐ Rows 10-17: k
- ☐ Work in garter st dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row until eight sts rem

- ☐ K two rows
- ☐ Cast off

LEAVES (make two)

Using 4mm needles and oddment of green DK yarn, cast on five sts

- ☐ Rows 1-2: k
- ☐ Row 3: k2, m1, k1, m1, k2. Seven sts
- ☐ Row 4: k3, p1, k3
- ☐ Row 5: k3, m1, k1, m1, k3. Nine sts
- ☐ Row 6: k4, p1, k4
- ☐ Row 7: k4, m1, k1, m1, k4. 11 sts
- ☐ Row 8: k5, p1, k5
- ☐ Row 9: k
- ☐ Rep Rows 8-9 twice more
- ☐ Next row: k to end dec one st at each end of row. Nine sts
- ☐ Next row: k to centre st, p1, k to end
- ☐ Rep last two rows until three sts rem
- ☐ Next row: k3tog. One st
- ☐ Fasten off

To make up

Weave in all ends. Place Shell and Base together with wrong sides facing. Pin together and sew outer edge, stuffing as you go, pushing more stuffing into Shell and moulding into shape. Sew underside of Head, stuffing as you go. Using oddment of black DK, embroider eye and mouth. Sew Head to body. Pin Shell edging around Shell and sew in place.

Stitch seams on Legs, stuffing as you go. Position Legs on Base, angling them slightly backwards and stitch in place firmly. Sew seam on Tail, stuffing as you go and attach to centre of Shell at back. Pin Flower petals and leaves on Shell and sew in place. Take centre of Flower and sew running thread around outer edge, drawing up to form a circle. Add stuffing and fasten off. Stitch in place in centre of petals **LK**



coming
next issue

ELVIS THE COCKATOO
BY VAL PIERCE

March issue of Let's Knit on
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The Making Hub: Denise Pigott, project leader for large scale collaborative events sponsored by the UK Hand Knitting Association, will be hosting the Hub where you can learn and practise knitting, crochet, finger and arm knitting contributing to the exciting 'DRESS ME UP' project.

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Hellebore

Knit Martin Storey's elegant wrapover cardigan in a brand new Rowan yarn

This pretty cardi is the perfect finishing touch to a spring outfit. Designed by Martin Storey and knitted in Summerlite 4ply, which is new for this season, it features a simple repeating pattern of lace and bobbles. The wraparound shape is flattering for every figure, so the pattern has been written for sizes ranging from 8 to 26. Wear it along with your favourite spring florals – flowers in the hair are optional!



Start knitting here

Measurements & Sizes

Dress size (approx)

8-10 (12-14, 16-18,
20-22, 24-26)

To fit bust (cm)

81-86 (91-97, 102-107,
112-117, 122-127)

Actual bust (cm)

91 (101, 113,
114, 138)

Length to shoulder (cm)

52 (54, 56,
58, 60)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Summerlite
4ply, shade 429 Navy Ink,
5 (6, 7, 8, 9) 50g balls

Needles: 2.25mm straight,
2.25mm (150cm) circular,
3mm straight

Ribbon (cm): 190 (200, 212,
224, 238)

Stitch holders

Tension Square

24 sts x 41 rows

10cm x 10cm

over patt

3mm needles

Special Abbreviations

MB: make bobble - [k1, yfwd,
k1] all into next st, turn, p3,
turn, k3, turn, p3, turn, sl 1,
k2tog, psso

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rowan Summerlite 4ply is
a wonderfully soft 100%
cotton yarn with a matte
finish. It comes in eight
pastel and four deeper
shades and can be
washed at 30 degrees.

Let's Shop

Rowan Summerlite 4ply
cost £3.74 per 50g (175m)
ball from 0117 300 5211,
www.getknitted.com

BACK

Using 2.25mm needles cast on 109
(121, 135, 149, 165) sts

□ Work in garter st for four rows,
ending after a WS row

Change to 3mm needles

Beg and ending rows as indicated,
working the 16 st patt rep 5 (7, 7, 9,
9) times across each row and the
24 row patt rep throughout, work
in patt from Chart for Back as folls:

□ Work 118 (124, 128, 132, 136) rows,
ending after a WS row. (Back should
meas approx 30 (31, 32, 33, 34) cm)

SHAPE ARMHOLES

□ Keeping patt correct, cast off
5 (6, 7, 8, 9) sts at beg of next two
rows. 99 (109, 121, 133, 147) sts

□ Dec one st at each end of next
3 (3, 5, 5, 7) rows, then on foll 4 (6, 6,
8, 8) alt rows, then on 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) foll
fourth rows. 79 (85, 91, 99, 107) sts

□ Work 57 (57, 55, 55, 53) rows,
ending after a RS row. Armhole
should meas approx 20 (21, 22, 23,
24) cm

SHAPE SHOULDERS AND BACK NECK

□ Next row (RS): cast off 4 (5, 5, 6,
6) sts, patt until there are 22 (24,
26, 29, 32) sts on RH needle and
turn, leaving rem sts on holder

Work each side of neck separately
□ Dec one st at neck edge of next
row. 21 (23, 25, 28, 31) sts

□ Cast off 4 (5, 5, 6, 6) sts at beg of
next and foll alt row, then 4 (4, 5, 6,
7) sts at beg of foll alt row and **AT**

THE SAME TIME dec one st at
neck edge of next five rows. 4 (4, 5,
5, 7) sts

□ Work one row

□ Cast off

□ With RS facing, slip centre 27
(27, 29, 29, 31) sts onto a holder,
rejoin yarn to rem sts, patt to end
□ Complete to match first side,
reversing shapings

LEFT FRONT

Using 2.25mm needles cast on 89
(101, 115, 129, 145) sts

□ Work in garter st for four rows,
ending after a WS row

Change to 3mm needles

Beg and ending rows as indicated,
rep the 16 st patt rep 4 (6, 6, 7, 8)
times across each row and rep the
24 row patt rep throughout, now
work in patt from Chart for Left
front as folls:

□ Work 29 rows, ending after a
RS row

SHAPE FRONT SLOPE

□ Cast off 3 (5, 7, 9, 11) sts at beg of



next row. 86 (96, 108, 120, 134) sts

□ Dec one st at front slope edge of
next 3 (5, 7, 9, 11) rows, then on foll
19 (21, 26, 31, 38) alt rows, then on
11 (11, 9, 7, 4) foll fourth rows. 53
(59, 66, 73, 81) sts

□ Work three rows, ending after a
WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLE

□ Keeping patt correct, cast off 5 (6,
7, 8, 9) sts at beg and dec one st at
end of next row. 47 (52, 58, 64, 71) sts

□ Work one row

□ Dec one st at armhole edge of
next 3 (3, 5, 5, 7) rows, then on foll
4 (6, 6, 8, 8) alt rows, then on 3 (3,
4, 4, 5) foll fourth rows and **AT**

THE SAME TIME dec one st at
front slope edge of third row and 5
(6, 7, 7, 8) foll fourth rows, then on
0 (0, 0, 1, 1) foll sixth rows. 31 (33,
35, 38, 41) sts

□ Work 3 (3, 1, 5, 3) rows, ending
after a WS row

□ Dec one st at front slope edge
only on next and foll two alt rows, then
4 (4, 5, 6, 7) sts at beg of foll alt row
□ Work one row

□ Cast off

SHAPE SHOULDER

□ Cast off 4 (5, 5, 6, 6) sts at beg of
next and foll two alt rows, then 4
(4, 5, 6, 7) sts at beg of foll alt row

□ Work one row

□ Cast off

RIGHT FRONT

Using 2.25mm needles cast on 89
(101, 115, 129, 145) sts

□ Work in garter st for four rows,
ending after a WS row

Change to 3mm needles.

Beg and ending rows as indicated, rep
the 16 st patt rep 4 (6, 6, 7, 8) times
across each row and rep the 24 row
patt rep throughout, now work in patt
from chart for Right front as folls:

□ Work 28 rows, ending after a
WS row

SHAPE FRONT SLOPE

□ Cast off 3 (5, 7, 9, 11) sts at beg of
next row. 86 (96, 108, 120, 134) sts

□ Complete to match left front,
reversing shapings

SLEEVES

Using 2.25mm needles cast on 73
(79, 83, 87, 93) sts

□ Work in garter st for four rows,
ending after a WS row

Change to 3mm needles

Beg and ending rows as indicated,

knitwise

Chart matters

This pattern is mainly
worked from a chart, and
there is a 16 stitch repeat
for all sizes. However, the
beginnings and ends of
the rows will be different
depending on what size
you're making. You'll
probably find it helpful to
enlarge the chart on a
photocopier, and to then
mark off where your size
starts and ends, and also
the repeat section, with
coloured pens.

rep the 16 st patt rep three times across each row and rep the 24 row patt rep throughout, now work in patt from chart for Sleeve as folls:

- Shape sides by inc one st at each end of next three rows, taking inc sts into patt. 79 (85, 89, 93, 99) sts.
- Work one row

SHAPE TOP

- Keeping patt correct, cast off 5 (6, 7, 8, 9) sts at beg of next two rows. 69 (73, 75, 77, 81) sts
- Dec one st at each end of next five rows, then on every foll alt row until 41 sts rem, then on six foll fourth rows. 29 sts
- Work one row
- Dec one st at each end of next and foll four alt rows, then on foll three rows, ending after a WS row
- Cast off

To make up

Darn in ends. Press pieces according to instructions on ball band, omitting garter stitch edges. Join both shoulder seams using back stitch, or mattress stitch if preferred

FRONT BAND

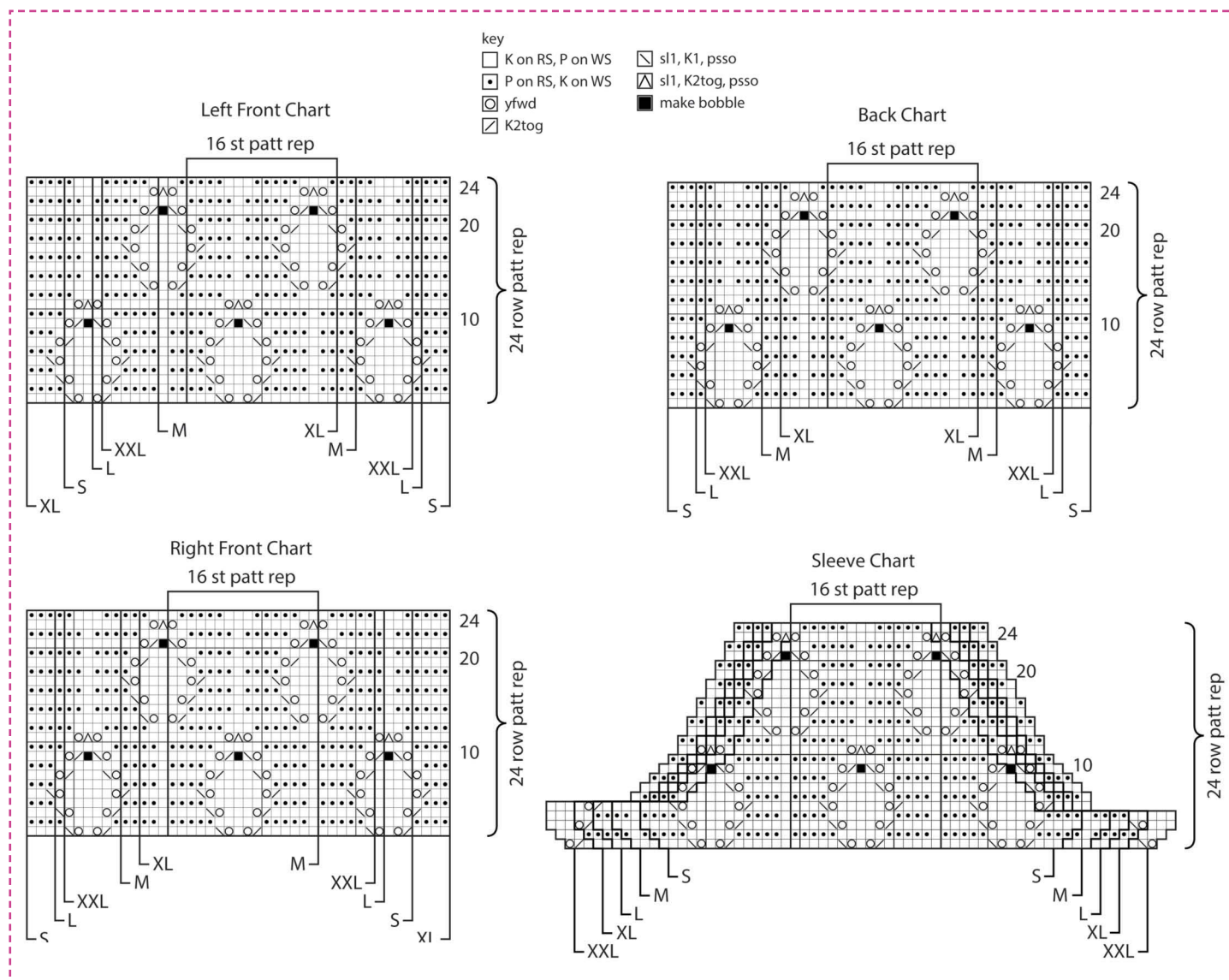
- Using 2.25mm circular needle, with RS facing, beg and ending at front opening edge, level with start of front slope shaping, pick up and k 138 (147, 156, 166, 176) sts up right front slope, seven sts down right side of back neck, k across 27 (27, 29, 29, 31) sts on back holder inc five sts evenly, pick up and k seven sts up left side of back neck, and 138 (147, 156, 166, 176) sts down left front slope. 322 (340, 360, 380, 402) sts
- Beg with a p row, work in st st for 11 rows, ending after a WS row
- Cast off

To make up

Place centre of cast-off edge of Sleeve to shoulder seam. Set in Sleeve, easing Sleeve head into armhole. Join side seams leaving open for first 8cm. Join Sleeve seams. Cut ribbon into two equal lengths. Positioning ribbons level with beg of front slope shaping, attach end of one ribbon to each opening edge **LK**



Vest top and dress from a selection at Warehouse, necklace model's own



Home COMFORTS



TIME FOR TEA

Owls are still a huge homewares trend and Debi Birkin's Morning Owl teacosy is just the thing for keeping your brew piping hot. £2, www.debibirkin.com



ANIMAL MAGIC

Designed by one of the knitting world's rising stars, Louise Walker, this fabulous kit comes with everything you need to make a taxidermy-style deer head. £45, www.etsy.com/shop/sincerelylouise



Decorate your feature wall with this brilliant knitting patterned wallpaper, designed by Muriva. £14.97 per roll, 0800 032 9329, www.wilko.com



IDEAL HOME

Check out these gorgeous crochet cushions, from Sirdar's new pattern book, Crochet Home. It features 32 homeware designs, made in the new Cotton 4ply yarn. Call 01924 371501 or visit www.sirdar.co.uk for stockists.



BOX CLEVER

Great for notions or knitting on the go, these storage cases will add a splash of colour to your craft room. From £9.95, 0845 450 3937, www.berryred.co.uk



COMFY & COSY

Knitted in gorgeous Rooster yarn, this moss stitch cushion will brighten up any room. Pattern RRP £2.50 www.roosteryarns.com

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3 OF THE BEST yarns for home knits

With all the diverse homeware projects out there, you need an equally varied selection of yarns. Katia Alpaca Onde is a chunky yet lightweight boucle yarn, comprising 75% alpaca and 25% wool. It costs £9.50 per 100g (50m) ball. Stylecraft Special DK is a versatile acrylic yarn that costs £1.95 per 100g (265m) ball. Rowan Tweed DK will add texture to your makes. It knits to a DK tension and costs £5.50 per 50g (118m) ball. All these yarns are available from 01782 862332, www.cucumberpatch.com

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Pattern 9136



Pattern 9134



Pattern 9131

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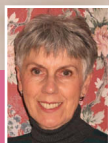
Blue Jeans

*Layer up for the new season
with Pat Menchini's
stylish cotton top*

Knitted in a cool ribbon yarn with fabulous a speckled dye effect, this on-trend T-shirt is sure to be a hit with

fashionistas. It's really easy to make as the back and front pieces are identical. The dolman sleeves are worked at the same time as the body and there is very little shaping to do. See our Knitwise panel overleaf for how to customise this top to suit your style and shape.

Sizes
6-28!



meet our
DESIGNER

"A quick and easy knit that's super for layering. The ridges of the garter stitch bands really stand out on this design."

PAT MENCHINI

EXCLUSIVE TO
**Let's
knit**

Measurements & sizes

Dress size (approx):

6-8 (10-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22-24, 26-28)

To fit chest (cm):

76-81 (86-91, 97-102, 107-112, 117-122, 127-132)

Actual chest (cm):

92 (102, 112, 122, 132, 142)

Length from shoulder (cm):

41 (43, 44, 46, 47, 49)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rico Fashion Summer Prints, shade 003 Denim, 7 (7, 8, 8, 9, 9) 50g balls

Needles: 6mm, 7mm, 8mm

Tapestry needle

Stitch holders

Tension Square

12 sts x 15 rows

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

8mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rico Fashion Summer Prints is made from 100% cotton and is a ribbon yarn with a chainette construction. This keeps it light to wear, whilst maintaining cotton's natural drape. This colourway has a mottled finish, but there are space dyed effects too. Wash by hand.

Need an Alternative?

Rowan All Seasons Chunky is also a pure cotton yarn, but is spun in a more traditional way. Make sure you do a tension square before you begin as the effect will be different to that shown.

Let's Shop

Rico Fashion Summer Prints costs £3.25 per 50g (65m) ball from 0208 290 1238, www.avicraftwool.com

Rowan All Seasons Chunky costs £7.25 per 100g (85m) ball from 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com

Start knitting here

FRONT

Using 8mm needles, cast on 55 (61, 67, 73, 79, 85) sts

☐ K seven rows

☐ Beg with a k row (RS), work six rows in st st

☐ K eight rows

☐ Rep last 14 rows once more

Change to st st and work as follows:

SHAPE SLEEVES

☐ Work four rows inc one st at each end of every row. 63 (69, 75, 81, 87, 93) sts

Pm at centre of last row

☐ Cont without shaping until Front meas 8 (10, 11, 13, 14, 16) cm from marker ending after a p row

SHAPE LEFT NECK

☐ Next row (RS): k26 (28, 30, 32, 34, 36), turn

Cont on this group of sts for left side of neck

☐ **Dec one st at neck edge on next four rows, then one st at neck edge on three foll alt rows. 19 (21, 23, 25, 27, 29) sts

☐ Work three rows without shaping, ending at sleeve edge

NOTE: work four rows here for right side of neck

SHAPE SHOULDER

☐ Loosely cast off 2 (2, 3, 3, 3, 3) sts at beg of next and two foll alt rows.

13 (15, 14, 16, 18, 20) sts

☐ Cast off 3 (4, 4, 5, 6, 6) sts at beg of two foll alt rows. 7 (7, 6, 6, 6, 8) sts

☐ Work one row

☐ Cast off

SHAPE RIGHT NECK

With RS facing slip next 11 (13, 15, 17, 19, 21) sts on to a holder

☐ Rejoin yarn to rem 26 (28, 30, 32, 34, 36) sts and k to end

☐ Cont on this group of sts for right side of neck and complete as left side of neck working from ** to end

BACK

☐ Work as for Front

FRONT NECKBAND

☐ Using 8mm needles and with RS

knitwise

Suits you

The basic shape of this garment makes it really easy to customise. If you're not a fan of cropped tops, simply add length by working more rows before shaping the sleeves – remember, you will need to buy extra yarn to do this. If you'd prefer a design with less ease, just cast on fewer stitches, remembering to take them from the outer edges of the work. The yarn used here has a lovely mottled effect, but you might want to add a contrasting band of a solid colour as an accent – go on, get creative!

facing, pick up and k 16 sts evenly down left neck, k across sts on holder, pick up and k 17 sts up right side of neck. 44 (46, 48, 50, 52, 54) sts

☐ K three rows

Change to 7mm needles

☐ K three rows

Change to 6mm needles

☐ K two rows

☐ Cast off kwise

BACK NECKBAND

☐ Work as Front neckband

SLEEVE BORDERS

Join shoulders and edges of neckbands

☐ Using 7mm needles and with RS facing, pick up and k 54 (56, 58, 61, 63, 65) sts evenly along Sleeve edge

☐ Rows 1-5: k

☐ Rows 6-9: beg with a k row, work in st st

☐ Rows 10-14: k

☐ Cast off kwise

To make up

Join side and Sleeve seams **LK**

"Ribbon yarns have made something of a comeback in recent years and this one has a lovely drape when knitted."

LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**



Blouse and trousers from a selection at H&M; necklace, £15 Marks and Spencer

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Patterns 16-17
taken from our
magazine 178



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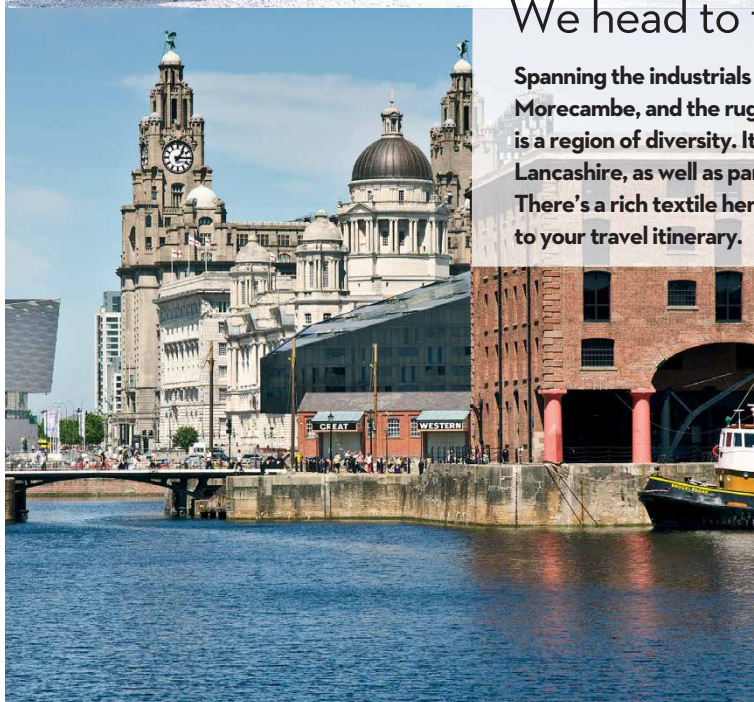




On the road: NORTH WEST

We head to the next stop on our nationwide guide

Spanning the industrial hubs of Manchester and Liverpool, the sandy beaches of Blackpool and Morecambe, and the rugged beauty of the Lake District National Park, the north west of England is a region of diversity. It covers the traditional counties of Cumbria, Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire, as well as parts of Greater Manchester, and has lots to offer the touring knitter. There's a rich textile heritage and yarn shops galore; here are just a few points of interest to add to your travel itinerary.



From farm to fame

The north of England covers such a wide geographical area, it is no surprise there were many significant trading centres in the region. Kendal in the Lake District is well known for its mint cake, but was once an

important hub for the Westmorland wool industry. Farms and monastic estates in the surrounding area meant sheep were plentiful and the fibres were often spun into cloth. By the end of the 17th

century, more than half the town's population had textile-related jobs and it remained a trade centre until the Industrial Revolution. The heritage of area is celebrated at the Kendal Wool Gathering, which takes place each October. This two-day event features market stalls, demonstrations and activities, promoting wool in all its forms. For further details, visit www.kendalwoolgathering.co.uk

Waterways and means

Liverpool opened its first docks in 1715 and fast became a bustling port. Wool was imported from Ireland, and homegrown fibres, textiles and other supplies were exported around the world, bringing wealth and status to the area.

Manchester had been an important wool centre since the 14th century and had grown into one of the biggest cities in the north. Determined to ensure its independence – and to avoid the need to pay dock dues to the Port of Liverpool – the Manchester Ship Canal opened in 1894, connecting the inland city to the Irish Sea. Although the textile industry eventually dwindled, the canal continues to operate today, with increased freight transport planned for the near future.



Herdy co-owner Spencer Hannah at the Patterdale show

Community support

Thanks to The Herdy Company, which launched in 2007, the humble herdwick sheep is now instantly recognisable and has gained something of a cult status. Herdwicks are native to the Lake District and are a hardy breed that live on the fells for most of the year. Their fleece is coarse and has traditionally been used for making carpets, but the cute, stylised imagery of the Herdy brand has raised their popularity. You can buy gifts, homewares and knitting kits, all featuring the sheepy motif.

As well as being a thriving business, The Herdy Company supports farmers and local causes within the Lake District, by way of The Herdyfund. Since its inception, the scheme

has funded training, specialist equipment, educational visits and the development of a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) label for herdwick products.

The company has also made donations to local causes, sponsored competitions and arranged fabulous community events. Find out more at www.herdycow.co.uk



SHOPPING SPREE

ABAKHAN

With a huge network of stores across the north of England, Wales and Europe, there are plenty of opportunities to see what Abakhan has to offer. Whether you're visiting Bolton, Preston, Manchester, Liverpool, Chester or Birkenhead, you'll be able to replenish your knitting stash. Each shop is bursting with fabrics, haberdashery, and yarn galore. Although stock will vary between stores, you can get your hands on yarns from brands, such as King Cole, Rico and Debbie Bliss. You can also sign up for knitting and crochet classes or go along to a free demonstration.

www.abakhan.co.uk



MINERVA CRAFT CENTRE

This impressive store in Darwen, Lancashire, stocks full ranges of popular yarns from brands including King Cole, Sirdar and Stylecraft. Take time to browse through the great collection of pattern books, and don't forget your accessories; Minerva stocks essentials from KnitPro, Clover and Pony. Sewing fans will find an inspiring selection of beautiful fabrics and there are goodies for papercrafters and jewellery makers too!

01254 708068, www.minervacrafts.com



THE WOOL BOAT

A yarn shop with a difference, The Wool Boat is run by Colin and Carole Wareing from their narrowboat, the Emma Maye. They sail the waterways of Britain, spending the winter in Burscough, Lancashire. The shop stocks a wide range of James C. Brett yarns, and you can even take part in an on-board workshop. Check the website to see where they'll be next! 07931 356204, www.colinandcarolescreations.co.uk

DIARY DATES

26TH-27TH JUNE: WOOLFEST

Celebrate the wonders of this fabulous material at the 11th WoolFest! With talks, demonstrations, workshops, animal auctions and more, there is plenty of creative inspiration to be found, whether you're a knitter, crocheter or all round fibre fan. Don't miss the marketplace selling all sorts of woollen produce from raw fleece to textile art, kits, and beautiful yarns and accessories.

Where: Mitchell's Lakeland Livestock Centre, Cockermouth, CA13 0QQ

Contact: 01697 478707, www.woolfest.co.uk



15TH AUGUST: POP UP WOOL SHOW

This show is the perfect opportunity to stock up on gorgeous yarns from independent spinners and dyers, as well as family favourites. The event supports Melanoma UK by donating knitted sleeves to cover intravenous tubes known as PICCs. There is also a yarn bombing planned for the big day and if you make pieces for the project, you could win free tickets. See the website for how to get involved.

Where: The Oval Leisure Centre, Bebington, CH63 7LF
Contact: www.popupwoolshow.co.uk





STASH FINE YARNS

This year, Stash Fine Yarns is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its bricks and mortar store! The company started online in 2004 and opened a shop in Chester the following year. It later expanded to larger premises just outside the city, where it is based today. There's a huge range of yarns, from Rowan and Sirdar to Icelandic Lopi, Regia, Fyberspates, and more. "We're constantly improving our selection of quality yarns from all over the world," says owner Steve Probert. "We are all passionate about knitting here at Stash and our huge product range of gorgeous yarns, patterns, needles, hooks and accessories reflects this."

01244 389310, www.stashfineyarns.com

MADE

Located in Wallasey on the Wirral peninsula, Merseyside, Made is a family-run business specialising in supplies hand and machine knitting. You'll find big-name brands from King Cole to James C. Brett, Sirdar and more, plus must-have accessories and design inspiration for your next project. The shop is also a dealer for Silver Reed knitting machines, so will be on hand to give expertise, whichever your craft. **0151 638 0304, www.madewirral.co.uk**



INSPIRATIONS, PRESTON

Stock up on crafting goodies, from stamps to scrapbook papers, as well as haberdashery and, of course, plenty of yarn. In the knitting and fabric department, you can find supplies from top brands, including Sirdar, Hayfield and Rico. Based in Preston, the craft superstore also holds regular workshops, a craft club, and has a coffee lounge for you to relax in while you shop. **01772 880852, <http://inspirations.cardcraftplus.co.uk>**

PLACES TO VISIT

MOSI, MANCHESTER

The Museum of Science and Industry celebrates the city's history and biggest technological achievements. Part of the exhibition explains the key role of textiles, with real-life stories, artwork and artefacts.

Where: Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4FP

Contact: 0161 832 2244, www.mosi.org.uk



HELMSHORE MILLS TEXTILES MUSEUM, LANCASHIRE

Made up of two neighbouring mills, one of which dates back to 1789, this museum uses original machinery to depict the history of wool and cotton production, and shows how the fibres were spun.

Where: Holcombe Road, Rossendale, BB4 4NP

Contact: 01706 226459, www.lancashire.gov.uk



BLACK SHEEP WOOLS

This company is a familiar sight at craft shows and has a popular online shop, but did you know it also has an impressive bricks and mortar store? Located near Warrington, Cheshire, the Craft Barn is filled with yarns, fibres, fabric and accessories from some of the biggest names around. "It's a yarn lover's heaven," says managing director Sara Mulvey. "It is staffed by experts who are always willing to help and despite being a huge store, it retains the feel of a local village wool shop." You can also sign up to one of the many workshops or attend a drop-in knitting session. When you've finished shopping, relax in the brilliantly named cafe, Tea Bags Full. **01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com**

THE WOOL CLIP

Based in Calbeck, Cumbria, and run by the fabulous folk behind WoolFest (see left), The Wool Clip is a wonderful showcase of crafty talent. It is run by a co-operative of designers and makers, specialising in fibre arts, such as spinning, dyeing, knitting and crochet. The shop has just reopened after a period of refurbishment, so stop by to see what's new. **01697 478707, www.woolclip.com**



JOHNSONS OF BOND STREET

An Aladdin's cave of crafty goodness, this Blackpool store is a great place to replenish your stash of yarns, patterns, needles and notions. With top products from Stylecraft, Debbie Bliss and more, you'll find everything you need for your next knitting or crochet project, plus scarf and eyelash yarns and all your hobby essentials. Stitchers will also love the wide range of needlework supplies. **01253 404550, www.johnsonsofbondstreet.com**



Measurements & sizes

135cm x 87cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Stylecraft Luxury Wool Rich DK, (A) shade 2467 Citrus, two 100g balls, (B) shade 2469 Ecru, four 100g balls

Needles: 3.25mm circular, 4mm circular

Tension Square

21 sts x 29 rows
10cm x 10cm
over pattern
4mm needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Stylecraft Luxury Wool Rich DK is comprised of 51% wool and 49% acrylic. Available in 12 hues, it can be washed and even tumble-dried!

Need an Alternative?

Wendy Mode DK is made from 50% acrylic and 50% natural fibres. Choose from 24 shades, from solid colours to marls and tweeds.

Let's Shop

Stylecraft Luxury Wool Rich DK costs £3.59 per 100g (270m) ball from 0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

To get 10% off all orders at Wool Warehouse, turn to page 75

10%
OFF!

Wendy Mode DK costs £2.10 per 50g (142m) ball from 01782 862332, www.cucumberpatch.com

Mint Julep

*Ward off those evening chills with
Helen Ardley's green bordered blanket*

March is a tricky month – the days are getting warmer, but the temperatures seem to drop as soon as the sun goes down. Whether you use it as an extra layer at night or keep it on the sofa for those cooler evenings, this blanket with its triangle motifs is perfect for both. The lacy pattern is made using a combination of yfwd and slipped stitches, and adds an interesting texture to the finished project.

Start knitting here

BLANKET

Using 3.25mm circular needle and yarn A, cast on 171 sts

□ K 12 rows

Cut yarn A and change to yarn B, change to 4mm circular needle
Work in patt as folls:

□ Row 1: k3, * p11, k3, rep from * to end

□ Row 2: p3, * k11, p3, rep from * to end

□ Row 3: k2, * yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, p9, k2tog, yfwd, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 4: p4, k9, * p5, k9, rep from * to last four sts, p4

□ Row 5: k3, * yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, p7, k2tog, yfwd, k3, rep from * to end

□ Row 6: p5, k7, * p7, k7, rep from * to last five sts, p5

□ Row 7: k4, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, p5, * k2tog, yfwd, k5, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, p5, rep from * to last six sts, k2tog, yfwd, k4

□ Row 8: p6, k5, * p9, k5, rep from * to last six sts, p6

□ Row 9: k5, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, p3, * k2tog, yfwd, k7, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, p3, rep from * to last seven sts, k2tog, yfwd, k5

□ Row 10: p7, k3, * p11, k3, rep from * to last seven sts, p7

□ Row 11: k6, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, k1, k2tog, yfwd, * k9, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, k1, k2tog, yfwd, rep from * to last six sts, k6

□ Row 12: p7, k1, p1, k1, * p11, k1, p1, k1, rep from * to last seven sts, p7

□ Row 13: p7, k3, * p11, k3, rep from * to last seven sts, p7

□ Row 14: k7, p3, * k11, p3, rep from

* to last seven sts, k7

□ Row 15: p6, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, * p9, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, rep from * to last six sts, p6

□ Row 16: k6, p5, * k9, p5, rep from * to last six sts, k6

□ Row 17: p5, k2tog, yfwd, k3, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, * p7, k2tog, yfwd, k3, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, rep from * to last five sts, p5

□ Row 18: k5, p7, * k7, p7, rep from * to last five sts, k5

□ Row 19: p4, k2tog, yfwd, k5, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, * p5, k2tog, yfwd, k5, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, rep from * to last four sts, p4

□ Row 20: k4, p9, * k5, p9, rep from * to last four sts, k4

□ Row 21: p3, k2tog, yfwd, k7, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pss, * p3, k2tog,



EXCLUSIVE TO
Let's knit



meet our
DESIGNER

"This lacy throw is great for spring time decorating! It will take a little time but the finished results will transform any room."

HELEN ARDLEY

- yfwd, k7, yfwd, sl 1, k1, pssso, rep from * to last three sts, p3
- ☐ Row 22: k3, * p11, k3, rep from * to end
 - ☐ Row 23: p1, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k9, * yfwd, sl 1, k1, pssso, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k9, rep from * to last four sts, yfwd, k2tog, k1, p1
 - ☐ Row 24: k1, p1, k1, * p11, k1, p1, k1, rep from * to end
- Rows 1-24 set patt
- ☐ Cont in patt until work meas 130cm
- Cut yarn B and change to yarn A, change to 3.25mm circular needle
- ☐ K 12 rows
 - ☐ Cast off

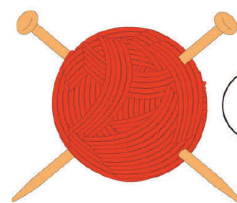
BORDER

- ☐ ** Using 3.25mm circular needle and yarn A, pick up and k 300 sts down one side of Blanket
 - ☐ K 12 rows
 - ☐ Cast off **
 - ☐ Rep from ** to ** for other side of Blanket
- Weave in all loose ends **LK**

knitwise

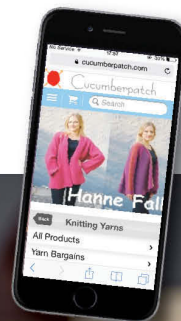
Top picks

This pattern asks you to pick up and knit the Border for the two long edges of the Blanket once you have finished knitting the Blanket itself. This will save you from having to change yarn colours on every row, which would result in a lot of yarn tails to weave in. To pick up and knit stitches, start at the right edge of your work with the right-side facing. Insert your needle into the first stitch below the cast-off edge from front to back and knit as normal, pulling the stitch through the fabric. Repeat for the required number of stitches.



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Harriet the Hedgehog

*Keep track of your sewing gear
with Jane Burn's adorable
woodland critter*

Whether you're a knitter, stitcher or a general crafter, you'll certainly know how those all-important pins and needles always seem to disappear just when you need them the most. Never fear – Harriet is here to lend a helping hand! A sweet little friend who's happy to look after those essential accessories, she would also make an endearing desk buddy or a gift for someone special.

EXCLUSIVE TO

Let's
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meet our
DESIGNER

"This little lady is a super fast make. You could make her in an evening! She's inspired by the woodland animals that are so popular right now - I thought a hedgehog would make a great pin cushion."

JANE BURNS

Measurements & Sizes

10cm tall

Knit Kit

Yarn: Sirdar Country Style DK, (A) shade 0625 Mahogany, (B), shade 0477 Mink, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm

Safety toy stuffing

Safety toy eyes: black, two

Oddment of pink DK yarn

Tension Square

26 sts x 36 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.25mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Special Abbreviations

MB: make bobble: see Knitwise

About the Yarn

Sirdar Country Style DK is a versatile yarn first launched back in the 1980s! Made from a blend of nylon, wool and acrylic, it comes in 34 hues.

Need an Alternative?

This is a great way to use up those spare scraps of DK yarn you have in your stash. Try personalising your hedgehog by making her in your favourite shades.

Let's Shop

Sirdar Country Style DK costs £2.89 per 50g (155m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

To get 15% off all orders at Deramores, turn to the back cover

15% OFF!



"A 50g ball of yarn would be enough to make two hedgehogs – one for you and one for your favourite knitting friend!"

LK Editorial Assistant Molly Todd

Start knitting here

PINCUSHION

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on 25 sts

- ☐ Row 1: k1, m1, k to last st, m1, k1. 27 sts
- ☐ Row 2: p
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-2 four times more. 35 sts

BODY

- ☐ Row 1: k9, (MB, k3) four times, MB, k9
- ☐ Row 2: p
- ☐ Row 3: k11, (MB, k3) four times, k8
- ☐ Row 4: p
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-4 twice more
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-2 once more

FACE

- Cut yarn A and change to yarn B
- ☐ Row 1: k
- ☐ Row 2 and every WS row: p
- ☐ Row 3: k5, (k2tog, k3) five times, k5. 30 sts
- ☐ Row 5: k5, (k2tog, k2) five times, k5. 25 sts
- ☐ Row 7: k5, (k2tog, k1) five times, k5. 20 sts
- ☐ Row 9: (k2tog) ten times. Ten sts
- Cut yarn B and change to yarn A
- ☐ Row 10: p
- ☐ Row 11: (k2tog) five times. Five sts
- Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

BOW

- ☐ Using 3.25mm needles and oddment of pink yarn, cast on nine sts
- ☐ Row 1: sl 1, k to end
- ☐ Row 2: sl 1, p to end
- ☐ Rows 3-4: rep Rows 1-2
- ☐ Row 5: as Row 1
- ☐ Cast off pwise

To make up

Weave in all ends. Sew from nose along base to halfway along Body. Use a running stitch around cast-on stitches to close back of hedgehog. Sew along remainder of base, stuffing as you go. Attach eyes to Face, using image as a guide. Wrap yarn around centre of Bow and sew Bow in place on head **LK**



knitwise

Bobbles up

This pattern makes use of bobbles to create the effect of hedgehog prickles. To make a bobble, simply work as follows:

- ☐ Row 1: work to first st of bobble, k into front, back, front, back and front of next stitch, turn and work on these five sts only
 - ☐ Row 2: sl 1, p4, turn
 - ☐ Row 3: sl 1, k4, turn
 - ☐ Rows 4-5: rep Rows 2-3
 - ☐ Row 6: as Row 2
 - ☐ Row 7: sl 2, k3tog, p2sso
- You can then continue knitting the rest of the original row.

coming next issue

ADORABLE TEDDY BY JANE BURNS

April issue of Let's Knit on sale Friday 20th March

WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!

CHOOSE A **BRAND NEW COLOUR** OF *Stylecraft Special DK* AND WIN A **FABULOUS STASH OF YARN!**



Imagine **creating your very own yarn colour** and having it produced by one of your favourite spinners. Well, here's your chance to do just that!

In an exciting competition brought to you by Let's Knit and **Stylecraft** yarns, your very own favourite colour could be added to the extensive range of **Special DK** shades. All you have to do is send in or email an example of the colour to Stylecraft by March 31st. This could be a scrap of fabric, a length of yarn, a photograph you have taken, something you have painted or even a sweetie wrapper you like the colour of.

In April our panel of judges including our editor Sarah Neal, Lucy from Attic 24 and award-winning blogger Phil from The Twisted Yarn will work with the Stylecraft team to choose the **top 10 colours**. These will then be put to a public vote and the favourite shade will be added to

"The favourite shade will be added to the Stylecraft range and launched at the Knitting & Stitching Show"

the Stylecraft range and launched at the Knitting & Stitching show in London in October.

The winner receives **100 balls of Special DK** as well as VIP entry to the show. Plus there are nine runner-up prizes of a Stylecraft goody bag to be won!



Send your entries...

...along with your name and contact details, to **Stylecraft Special Colour competition, Stylecraft, Spa Mill, New Street, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5BB** or by email to creative@stylecraft.co.uk

GIVEAWAYS TERMS & CONDITIONS

This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. The prize detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet. It cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Ineligible entries and those that do not abide by these T&Cs will be disqualified. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be

entered into. Winners will be notified by 19/06/15, a list of winners will be available on request in writing from creative@stylecraft.co.uk

Your details will be processed by Spectrum Yarns Ltd in full accordance with data protection legislation. All entries become the property of Spectrum Yarns Ltd. Spectrum Yarns Ltd may wish to contact you with information of other services we provide which may be of interest.

Purplelinda Crafts

Love to Crochet

Get Set for Spring!

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Measurements & sizes

25cm deep

Knit Kit

Yarn: Wendy Supreme Cotton Chunky, (A) shade 1430 Pear, (B) shade 1420 White, (C) shade 1429 Caramel, (D) shade 1423 Beige, one 100g ball of each

Oddment of black chunky yarn

Needles: 6mm straight, 6mm double-pointed

Sewing needle and thread

Felt: black

Stitch markers

Tension Square

10 sts x 12 rows

10cm x 10cm

over patt

6mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Wendy Supreme Cotton Chunky is made of 100% mercerised cotton. Supple and smooth, it's available in 11 shades.

Need an Alternative?

Rico Fashion Cotton Big is a 100% cotton chunky yarn. It comes in a range of pretty shades that would be great for a child's bedroom.

Let's Shop

Wendy Supreme Cotton Chunky costs £3.76 per 100g (83m) ball from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Rico Fashion Cotton Big costs £3.29 per 50g (50m) ball from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Three of a Kind

Brighten up a child's room with Jane Burns' trio of homewares

Kids are notoriously fussy individuals, and if you're a parent then you'll also know how tough it can be to get them to keep their rooms tidy. These cute baskets would please any boy or girl as not only are they irresistible, but they're also a quick and easy way to stash away the toys after a long day of play. Try mixing and matching their favourite colours to make one that's truly unique!

Start knitting here

FROG BASE

Using 6mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on 20 sts

- ☐ Row 1: p
- ☐ Row 2: k2, (k1, m1) 16 times, k2. 36 sts
- ☐ Row 3: p
- ☐ Row 4: k2, (k1, m1) 31 times, k3. 67 sts

BODY

- ☐ ** Row 1: p
- ☐ Row 2: k1, (yfwd, k2tog) 33 times
- ☐ Row 3: p
- ☐ Row 4: (ssk, yfwd) 33 times, k1 **
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-4 a further ten times
- ☐ Next row: p
- Work i-cord cast-off as folls:
- ☐ Next row: * k2, k2tog, place sts from RH needle back onto LH needle, rep from * until three sts rem
- ☐ Next row: work until i-cord meas 22cm (see Knitwise overleaf)
- ☐ Cast off

EYES (make two)

Using 6mm dpns and yarn B, cast on eight sts, join into the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm to mark beg of Rnd

- ☐ Rnds 1-2: k
- ☐ Rnd 3: * k1, m1, rep from * to end. 16 sts
- ☐ Rnds 4-5: k
- ☐ Rnd 6: * k1, m1, rep from * to end. 32 sts
- Cut yarn B and change to yarn A
- ☐ Rnd 7: k
- ☐ Rnd 8: cast on three sts, * k2, k2tog, place sts from RH needle back onto LH needle, rep from * until three sts rem
- ☐ * Place three sts from RH needle on to LH needle, k to end, rep from * twice more
- ☐ Cast off
- Cut two pieces of black felt and sew to centre of Eyes, using image as a guide

MOUTH

Using 6mm dpns and oddment of black chunky yarn, cast on two sts, place two sts from RH needle on to LH needle

- ☐ Make an i-cord that meas 22cm from cast-on edge
- ☐ Cast off

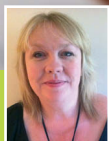
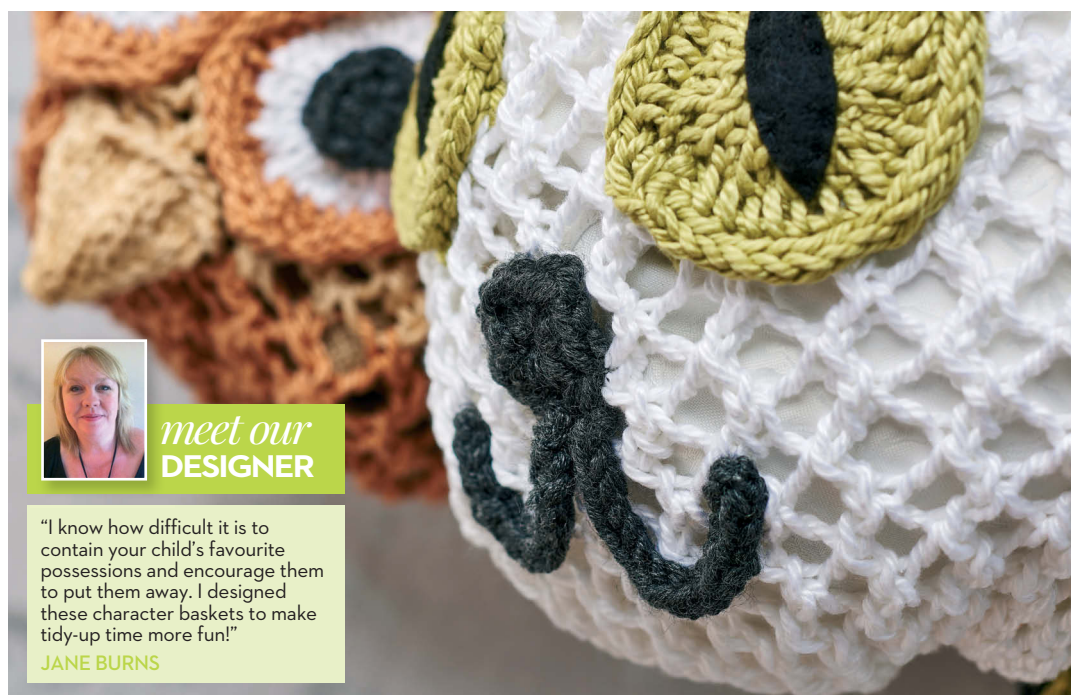
To make up

Weave in all ends. Sew back seam. Use a running stitch to close Base. Fold i-cord in half to form hanging loop and sew in place. Join cast-off and cast-on edges of Eye to form Eye lid. Cut two pieces of black felt and sew to centre of Eyes. Pin Eyes to Body and sew in place. Stitch Mouth in place

OWL BASE

Using 6mm needles and yarn C, cast on 20 sts

- ☐ Work as Base for Frog



meet our
DESIGNER

"I know how difficult it is to contain your child's favourite possessions and encourage them to put them away. I designed these character baskets to make tidy-up time more fun!"

JANE BURNS



knitwise

Cordially yours

I-cords are easy to make and are a simple way of adding handles to these quirky animal baskets. To knit an i-cord using double-pointed needles, cast on the required number of stitches. Knit across the row, but do not turn your work; instead, slide the stitches to the other end of the needle. Repeat this step until the i-cord is of desired length and cast off. You can make an i-cord using straight needles by placing the worked stitches on your right-hand needle back onto your left-hand needle to knit again. The i-cord on the Body of the baskets is made by decreasing stitches until only three stitches remain, then working on these stitches using the method described.



BODY

- ☐ Work as Body for Frog from ** to **
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-4 of Body five times more
- Cut yarn C and change to yarn D
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-4 of Body a further five times
- ☐ Work i-cord cast-off as for Frog

EYES (make two)

- ☐ Work as Eyes for Frog, changing to yarn C on Rnd 7

PUPILS (make two)

Using 6mm straight needles and oddment of black chunky yarn, cast on nine sts

- ☐ Row 1: p
- ☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through sts, pull tight and fasten off

Sew in place on Eyes, using image as a guide

BEAK

Using 6mm straight needles and yarn D, cast on 11 sts

- ☐ Row 1 (WS): sl 1, p to end
- ☐ Row 2: sl 1, k to end
- ☐ Row 3: sl 1, p to end
- ☐ Row 4: sl 1, ssk, k to last three

sts, k2tog, k1. Nine sts

- ☐ Row 5: sl 1, p to end
- ☐ Rep Rows 4-5 until five sts rem
- ☐ Next row: sl 1, (sl 2, k1, p2ss), k1. Three sts
- ☐ Next row: p3tog. One st
- ☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through st, pull tight and fasten off

To make up

Work as for Frog. Attach two corners of Beak underneath Eyes and sew in place

CAT BASE

Using 6mm straight needles and yarn B, cast on 20 sts

- ☐ Work as Base for Frog

BODY

- ☐ Using yarn B throughout, work as Body for Frog

EARS (make four)

Using 6mm straight needles and yarn B, cast on 15 sts

- ☐ Work as Beak for Owl

EYES

- ☐ Work as for Eyes of Frog but working in yarn A and omitting Row 7

NOSE

Using 6mm straight needles and oddment of black chunky yarn, cast on 15 sts

- ☐ Row 1: p
- ☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through sts, pull tight and fasten off

MOUTH (make two pieces)

Using 6mm dpns and oddment of black chunky yarn, cast on two sts, place two sts from RH needle on to LH needle

- ☐ Next row: * k2, do not turn, move sts to other end of needle, pull working yarn tight across back, rep from * until i-cord meas

9cm from cast-on edge

- ☐ Cast off

To make up

Work as for Frog. With wrong sides facing, sew two Ear pieces together to form one Ear and repeat for last two pieces. Sew Ears, Nose and Mouth in place, using image as a guide **LK**

coming
next issue

STUNNING FAIR ISLE
CUSHION FROM JANE BURNS

April issue of Let's Knit on sale
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Cobalt Daze

*Try your hand at stranded colourwork with
Lynne Rowe's classic homeware*

Originating in Scotland back in the 1800s, houndstooth is a two-tone textile pattern characterised by a broken check motif, typically using a black and white colour scheme. Thanks to the use of tweed-effect yarns in shades of blue and grey, this vintage style cushion puts a modern twist on a traditional pattern, making it a stylish homeware that's perfect for any time of year.

Measurements & sizes

37.5cm x 37.5cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Tweed, (A) shade 584 Buckden, (B) shade 587 Muler, two 50g balls of each
Needles: 3.75mm (80cm) circular needle, extra 3.75mm needle for casting off
Cushion pad: 37cm x 37cm
Sewing needle and thread
Snap fastenings: 12mm, seven

Tension Square

24 sts x 28 rows
10cm x 10cm
over patt
3.75mm needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rowan Tweed is a DK weight yarn spun from 100% wool. It is wonderfully soft and comes in 22 subtly flecked shades.

Need an Alternative?

Wendy Merino DK is made from pure merino yarn. Available in 45 colours, it is kind even to sensitive skin.

Let's Shop

Rowan Tweed costs £5.95 per 50g (118m) ball from 0845 544 2196, www.loveknitting.com

To get 15% off all orders at Love Knitting, turn to page 2

15% OFF!

Wendy Merino DK costs £2.99 per 50g (116m) ball from 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com

Start knitting here

HEM

Using 3.75mm circular needle and yarn A, cast on 180 sts, join in the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd

- ☐ Rnds 1-6: work in in st st
- ☐ Rnd 7: p

CUSHION

- ☐ Rnd 8: work Rnd 1 of Chart to end of rnd
- ☐ Rnd 9: work Rnd 2 of Chart to end of rnd
- ☐ Rnds 10-111: keeping placement of Chart correct, work in st st, ending after a Rnd 8 of Chart
- ☐ Turn Cushion inside-out and cast off using three-needle cast-off method (see Knitwise)

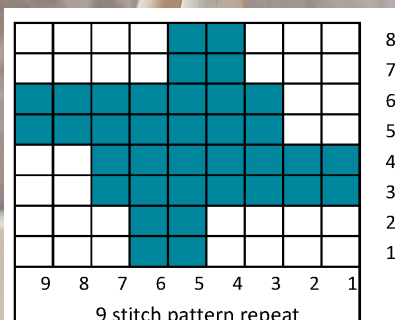
To make up

Weave in all ends and block Cushion. Fold hem to WS of Cushion at Row 7, pin in place and slip stitch Hem using yarn A. Evenly space snap fasteners along inside Hem and stitch in place. Insert cushion pad and press fasteners closed LK

knitwise

Three needle cast off

This is the ideal way of both casting off your project and closing the top section of your cushion at the same time. With the stitches distributed evenly on the circular needle, hold the needle tips together in your left hand. Insert a third needle into the first stitch and last stitch on the circular needle and knit the two stitches together. Repeat this step a second time, then pass your first stitch over the second as you would for a normal cast off. Repeat this until all the stitches have been cast off.



COSY CUSHION



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DESIGNER

"This knit is inspired by the classic houndstooth pattern which has been a firm favourite of many fashion designers since the 1960s. It was once a woven material worn by shepherds as they watched their sheep!"
LYNNE ROWE





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Measurements & Sizes

Cushion: 41cm x 41cm

Teacosy: to fit average four-cup teapot

Mug cosy: 11cm tall x 25cm circumference

Tension Square

21 sts x 24 rows

10cm x 10cm

over pattern

5mm needles

Knit Kit

Yarn: West Yorkshire Spinners Bluefaced Leicester Aran, shade Lavender, **Cushion:** five 50g balls, **Teacosy:** two 50g balls, **Mug cosy:** one 50g ball
Needles: 4.5mm, 5mm

Cable needle

Cushion pad: 40cm x 40cm

Buttons: three (for Cushion)

Crochet hook: 5mm (for Teacosy – optional)

Tapestry needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Special Abbreviations

C4F/C4B: see p92

Cr4F: sl two sts on to cn, hold at front of work, k1, p1, k2 from cn

Cr4B: sl two sts on to cn, hold at back of work, k2, (p1, k1) from cn

skypo: sl 1, k1, yfwd, pass slipped st over k st and yfwd, and off needle

Tw4B: sl two sts on to cn, hold at back of work, k2, p2 from cn

Tw4F: sl two sts on to cn, hold at front of work, p2, k2 from cn

About the Yarn



West Yorkshire Spinners Bluefaced Leicester Aran is a pure wool yarn that is reared, sheared and spun right here in the UK. It's wonderfully soft and comes in pastel, natural and bold shades. It should be washed by hand.

Need an Alternative?

King Cole Merino Blend Aran is a superwash wool, blended from different sheep breeds. It knits to a similar tension and comes in 25 colourways.

Cosy Living

Use intricate cables and twists in Monica Russel's stylish trio

There's something very comforting about seeing a home bedecked in knitted finery and this set is a wonderful example of just how great they can look. The cushion, teacosy and mug cosy all feature the same cable pattern. They're knitted in beautifully soft British wool and as natural fibres have excellent insulating properties, your tea will stay hotter for longer, both in the pot and in the mug!

Start knitting here

Cushion FRONT PANEL

Using 5mm needles, cast on 86 sts
☐ Row 1 (RS): k2, * skypo (see Special abbreviations), k3, p2, C4F, p2, k3, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2

☐ Row 2: p7, * k2, p4, k2, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k2, p4, k2, p7

☐ Row 3: k2, * skypo, k3, p2, k4, p2, k3, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2

☐ Row 4: as Row 2

☐ Rows 5-6: rep Rows 1-2

☐ Row 7: k2, * skypo, k3, Tw4B, Tw4F, k3, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2

☐ Row 8: p9, * k4, p12, rep from * to last 13 sts, k4, p9

☐ Row 9: k2, * skypo, k1, C4B, p4, C4F, k1, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2

☐ Row 10: as Row 8

☐ Row 11: k2, * skypo, k2, Cr4F, p2, Cr4B, k2, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2

☐ Row 12: p7, * k1, p2, k2, p2, k1, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k1, p2, k2, p2, k1, p7

☐ Row 13: k2, * skypo, k3, Tw4F, Tw4B, k3, rep from * to last four sts,

skypo, k2

☐ Row 14: p7, * k2, p4, k2, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k2, p4, k2, p7
Rows 1-14 set Cable patt

☐ Rep last 14 rows six times more
☐ Cast off

LOWER BACK PANEL

☐ Work as for Front until Cable patt has been rep four times in total

BUTTONBAND

☐ Row 1: (k2, p2) to last two sts, k2

☐ Row 2: (p2, k2) to last two sts, p2

☐ Rep last two rows twice more

☐ Cast off

knitwise

Crossing over

The stitch pattern uses standard cables, as well as two variations. For the Tw4F and Tw4B used in this pattern, you will be using the same motion but purling two of the stitches. For the Cr4F and Cr4B you will be using a combination of knit and purl stitches. These two techniques create a travelling cable.



Let's Shop

West Yorkshire Spinners Bluefaced Leicester Aran has an RRP of £4.85 per 50g (83m) ball. For stockists: 01535 664500, www.wyspinners.com

King Cole Merino Blend Aran costs £2.95 per 50g (80m) ball from 0845 003 0775, www.wool4less.co.uk

UPPER BACK PANEL BUTTONHOLE BORDER

Using 5mm needles, cast on 86 sts

- ☐ Foundation row: k each st tbl
- ☐ Row 1: (k2, p2) to last two sts, k2
- ☐ Row 2: (p2, k2) to last two sts, p2
- These two rows set rib
- ☐ Row 3: rib 12, * cast off two sts [one st on RH needle], rib 25, rep from * once, cast off two sts [one st on RH needle], rib 15
- ☐ Row 4: work as Row 2, casting on two sts over cast-off gaps on prev row
- ☐ Rows 5-6: rep Rows 1-2

To make up

Sew Lower back panel to bottom edge of Front panel, sew side seams. Sew Upper back panel to top edge of Front panel, overlapping Lower back panel. Sew side seams. Attach buttons to buttonband to correspond with buttonholes

TEACOSY FRONT AND BACK

(alike)

Using 4.5mm needles, cast on 50 sts

- ☐ Foundation row: k each st tbl
- ☐ Next row: (k1, p1) to end
- ☐ Rep last row five times more
- Change to 5mm needles
- ☐ Row 1 (RS): k2, * skypo (see Special abbreviations), k3, p2, C4F, p2, k3, rep from * to end
- ☐ Row 2: p3, * k2, p4, k2, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k2, p4, k2, p7
- ☐ Row 3: k2, * skypo, k3, p2, k4, p2, k3, rep from * to end
- ☐ Row 4: as Row 2
- ☐ Rows 5-6: rep Rows 1-2
- ☐ Row 7: k2, * skypo, k3, Tw4B, Tw4F, k3, rep from * to end
- ☐ Row 8: p5, * k4, p12, rep from * to last 13 sts, k4, p9
- ☐ Row 9: k2, * skypo, k1, C4B, p4, C4F, k1, rep from * to end
- ☐ Row 10: as Row 8
- ☐ Row 11: k2, * skypo, k2, Cr4F, p2, Cr4B, k2, rep from * to end
- ☐ Row 12: p3, * k1, p2, k2, p2, k1, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k1, p2, k2, p2, k1, p7
- ☐ Row 13: k2, * skypo, k3, Tw4F, Tw4B, k3, rep from * to end
- ☐ Row 14: p3, * k2, p4, k2, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k2, p4, k2, p7
- Rows 1-14 set Cable patt
- ☐ Rep last 14 rows once, then Rows 1-6 once more

TOP FRILL

- ☐ Row 1: (k2tog, p2) to last two sts, k2tog, 37 sts
- ☐ Row 2: (p1, k2) to last st, p1
- ☐ Row 3: (k1, p2tog) to last st, k1, 25 sts
- ☐ Row 4: (p1, k1) to last st, p1



EXCLUSIVE TO
**Let's
knit**

Three great
gift ideas!



meet our
DESIGNER

"Brighten up your living space with this matching set of three great cabled homeware projects."
MONICA RUSSEL

MUG COSY

Using 5mm needles, cast on 54 sts

- ☐ Row 1 (RS): k2, * skypo, k3, p2, C4F, p2, k3, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2
- ☐ Row 2: p7, * k2, p4, k2, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, * k2, p4, k2, p7
- ☐ Row 3: k2, * skypo, k3, p2, k4, p2, k3, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2
- ☐ Row 4: as Row 2
- ☐ Rows 5-6: rep Rows 1-2
- ☐ Row 7: k2, * skypo, k3, Tw4B, Tw4F, k3, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2
- ☐ Row 8: p9, * k4, p12, rep from * to last 13 sts, k4, p9
- ☐ Row 9: k2, * skypo, k1, C4B, p4, C4F, k1, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2
- ☐ Row 10: as Row 8
- ☐ Row 11: k2, * skypo, k2, Cr4F, p2,

- ☐ Row 5 (eyelets): (k1, k2tog, yfwd, p1) to last st, k1
- ☐ Row 6: as Row 4
- ☐ Row 7: (k1, p1) to last st, k1
- ☐ Row 8: (p1, kfb) to last st, p1, 37 sts
- ☐ Row 9: (k1, p2) to last st, k1
- ☐ Row 10: as Row 2
- ☐ Row 11: as Row 9
- ☐ Cast off

To make up

Join side seams along bottom rib edge. Leaving gaps for handle and spout, sew remaining side seams. Using yarn held double, make a crochet chain and thread it through eyelets. Alternatively, make a plait or twisted cord. Make two 5cm diameter pompoms and attach to ends of cord. Pull to gather top of Teacosy

- Cr4B, k2, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2
- ☐ Row 12: p7, * k1, p2, k2, p2, k1, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k1, p2, k2, p2, k1, p7
- ☐ Row 13: k2, * skypo, k3, Tw4F, Tw4B, k3, rep from * to last four sts, skypo, k2
- ☐ Row 14: p7, * k2, p4, k2, p8, rep from * to last 15 sts, k2, p4, k2, p7
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-12 once more
- ☐ Cast off

To make up

Join side seams leaving a space for mug handle. Cast-on edge will have a slight ripple effect, shown on the top edge in our photo **LK**

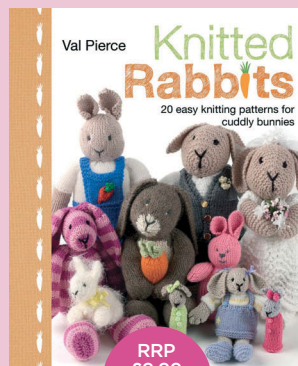
FREE* Arne & Carlos 'Easter Knits' book for EVERY reader!



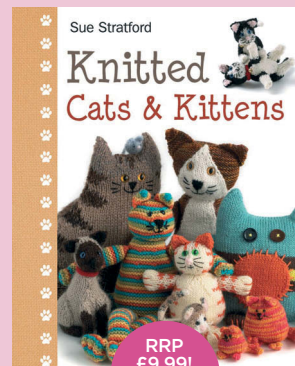
Arne and Carlos, the innovative knitting designers who have given us '55 Christmas Balls to Knit' and 'Knitted Dolls', have now created a wonderful collection of cute and cuddly springtime knits, all in their own inimitable style.

- All quick and easy to make, the projects are suitable for knitters of all ages and abilities
- A unique collection of little knitted items that make perfect gifts or decorative items for the home

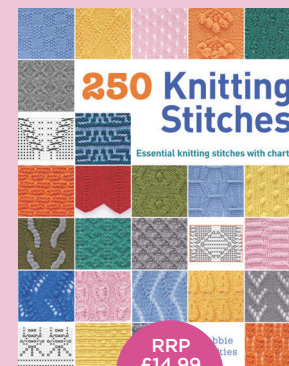
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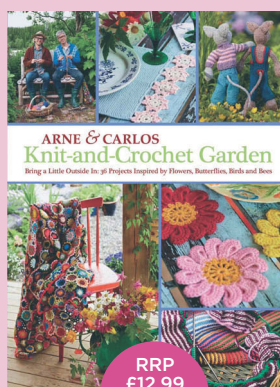
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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Part 4 of our #LKsecretgarden knitalong blanket
- Simple casual cardigan
- Child's crochet apron
- Nominate in this year's British Knitting Awards



AND MUCH MORE!

Let's Knit



Basketweave sweater

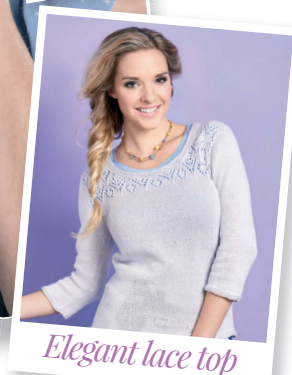
**SPRINGTIME
SCARF BY
HELEN ARDLEY**



Elvis the Cockatoo



Adorable teddy bear



Elegant lace top

Why not take up a trial to Let's Knit with 3 issues for just £6! go to www.letsknit.co.uk/LKN15T



Star LETTER

I have chronic chest pain, and I use knitting to help me control my condition. My first hospital knit was a pair of socks made on my new, exciting (at the time!) Knit Pro cubics. I spent such a long time talking to the other patients about how fun and easy knitting is that the next time I went to hospital, people actually remembered me for my knitting! I'm so proud of these socks as the time and concentration I spent on them left me pain-free for hours. I had tried to make socks before and failed horribly, so I was very chuffed. I urge everyone who's suffering like I am to give knitting a go, as it really has become a lifeline to me.

Let's Knit always gives such wonderful stories. I've always dreamt of owning my own craft shop with a knitting room in the back, and seeing other people achieve their dreams inspires me to follow mine.

Ruth Tipping

Thank you for your letter, Ruth. Knitting has so many health benefits – it's great to hear that it's helping you. Enjoy your Star Letter prize!



STOP & SHARE

STORIES AND MAKES GALORE FROM OUR WONDERFUL READERS

HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE MADE:

"Reversible
Batman baby
blanket and
matching
cardigan"
Hollie Cooper



"Cute pigeon!"
Tracey Ellis

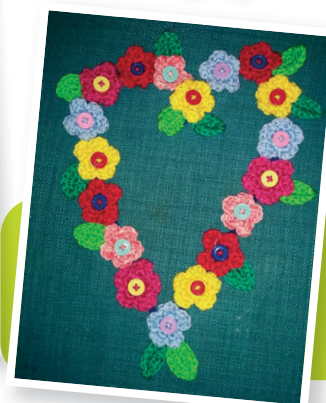


Star
make

"Smaug from
The Hobbit!"
Corinne Wright



"Wilbur!"
**Caroline
Bletsis**



"A crocheted
heart wreath"
**Tracy Louise
Roach**

WE ASKED
YOU ON
FACEBOOK:



*What's your favourite
thing to knit for Easter?*

33% of you said rabbits

22% of you said eggs

34% of you said sheep, of course!



WE ASKED ON TWITTER...

If you could knit or crochet anything for your mum on Mother's Day, what would it be?

HERE'S WHAT YOU SAID:

I made my mum a Santa. It was started by my Nana and when she passed away I completed it.

@Dodgethecat

A scarf to wear with her new coat!

@BeingKnitterly

I always make things for my mummy! I can't decide this year, but she loves any sort of crocheted throw.

@bluebirdanielle

I made my mum a 70s spiderweb mohair gilet knitted with tiny bows and with flowers sewn on. I've not made anything so beautiful since!

@MisaBuckley

I knitted a hat from Kidsilk Haze and Manos Lace, which my mum then lost - she's now on the banned list!

@SpinsNeedles

A diamond ring!

@EbonyVillefort

WIN!

Our Star Letter this month has won seven balls of Peter Pan yarn and an accompanying pattern book.



Doodlestop

This month's Star Make has won a fabulous Beginner's Crochet Kit from Doodlestop.

Tip

OF THE MONTH

"It's easy to change simple flat patterns to working them in the round. Just switch the knit and purl stitches on the wrong side rows!"

Monica Gilbert

PRINTED TIPS WIN A £10 VOUCHER TO SPEND AT BLACK SHEEP WOOLS



Why I love my local yarn shop

"My local yarn shop is Knitting Wool and Yarn in Paignton, Devon. They have a large amount of different yarns and sell a great range of all things knitty. The owners are really nice and helpful!"

Maria Cowling

Let us know why you love your local yarn shop by emailing molly.todd@aceville.co.uk



"I made this"
Elena Pehlivanova



"The Avengers!"
The Knitting Witch UK

"A pink rabbit"
Pat Brown



"A dinosaur!" **Sarah Belsey**



PINS AND NEEDLES

No spring time would be complete without the Easter bunny! Whether you prefer knitting or crochet, we've found some of our personal favourites over on Pinterest. You're bound to find one that you'll fall in love with!



littlecottonrabbits
[.typepad.co.uk](http://typepad.co.uk)



fuzzymitten.com



littlemuggles.com

[Pinterest.com/letsknitmag](https://www.pinterest.com/letsknitmag)

Get in touch

Send us photos of your makes, tell us about your experiences, share tips or answer questions and polls.



molly.todd@aceville.co.uk



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Let's Knit, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road,
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TEA Break

SETTLE DOWN WITH A CUPPA TO READ, RELAX AND TEST YOUR KNITTY KNOWLEDGE!

Wordplay

We've jumbled up three knitting-related words or phrases. Can you work out what they are?

weird song (5, 4)
our owl rock (10)
real catch (4, 5)

LET'S KNIT'S QUICK QUIZ

How much do you know about your favourite hobby? Take our fun quiz to find out!

1. The Mirasol project produces yarns and patterns that support communities in which country?
2. Seacell fibres are made of wood-cellulose (lyocell) and what other substance?
3. Yarn Shop Day this year falls on what day?
4. Which needle and accessories company features a knitting panda as its mascot?
5. Designer Louise Walker is best known for creating what kind of knitting projects?

NAME THAT YARN

Here are three clues to our mystery yarn. Is it one that's in your stash?

- It falls between a 4ply and DK in tension and comes in over 55 shades.
- It's a hugely popular baby yarn, comprising of 55% wool, 33% microfibre and 12% cashmere.
- You can knit some gorgeous designs from one of the many supporting pattern books.



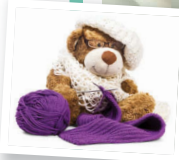
Caption competition

Email molly.todd@aceville.co.uk with your caption and we'll publish the winning entry in our next issue!

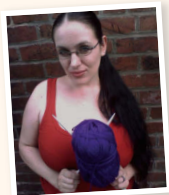
Check out the answers below to see how many you got right!

Here's our favourite caption from last issue

"Bear with me while I finish one more row..."
Congratulations to **Vanessa Runagall**



PURLS OF WISDOM



By Claire Thomas

Designs on Me

I love to design my knits, but I think it's fair to say I'm not a natural designer. It takes me literally hours of pencil chewing to come up with anything good. By the time I've tweaked it, redrawn it, added bits and taken out the bits that didn't work, it's three months later and I've got splinters in my upper lip. And even then, my idea - my precious, sweated-over idea - is... well... it's just not all that. Nobody would look at my designs and seize me by the arm, demanding that I instantly divulge the source of this amazing garment under pain of fearsome menaces. ("No, tell me! Did you steal it from Karl Lagerfeld's man-bag, or do you go drinking with Vivienne Westwood? Tell me if you want to see your KnitPicks

interchangeable needles ever again....")

"The point is to design something, anything - you don't have to be brilliant at it. You just have to do it."

Mind you, many people aren't born talented designers and still get a great deal of joy from knitting. We can't all be Kaffe Fassett. And this is true and right. It doesn't even matter. That said, it can be galling when someone takes up knitting, and within a couple of weeks are showing a flair for design that puts you, the long-time knitter, to shame. A good friend, himself not a knitter, shacked up with

a lady who was a very talented knitter. I can only presume that seeing the incredible products of her needles impressed him so much that he was prompted to give it a go himself. Within a very short space of time, he had a design in the top ten Ravelry downloads. I'm not going to lie, it was gorgeous. I'm surprised it didn't make number one.

I was chartreuse with envy - a shade not nearly as pretty on a face as it is on a cowl. Somewhere in my mind I must have believed that novice knitters couldn't design good stuff, that the ability to design only comes to those who have grown in the craft (probably because I myself didn't start designing my own makes until I'd been knitting for a while). You don't need me to tell you what a ridiculous idea this is. Even I could see it was ridiculous, and I've made a hobby out of being completely unreasonable at all times. I am Olympic level unreasonable.

And then I realised: my designs may not be amazing, but they are mine. Surely that's what counts? Not how far you can fuse Anglo-punk with vintage 1920s, but how far the result has come out of your own head. However lame and dull my designs are, they are my own. Nobody else designed them but me. The point is to design something,

anything - you don't have to be brilliant at it. You just have to do it. If everyone was brilliant at designing stuff, we wouldn't need pattern books. We wouldn't need designers. We'd be doing it for ourselves.

This is the strange fudge of a compromise I've found for myself (mmm, fudge). I can love my dull and silly designs because they show my creativity. I can wear them with pride because I thought them up. And for pretty designs, I go to the experts. Hey, if it wasn't for the ham-handed likes of me, knitting designers wouldn't have jobs.

Claire Thomas is a freelance journalist and founder of Stitch 'n' Bitch group, Knit Pickers



How did you do?

Quick Quiz: 1. Peru, 2. seaweed, 3. Saturday 2nd May, 4. HiyaHya, 5. Taxidermy-style animals
Word Play: 1. wrong side, 2. colourwork, 3. lace chart Name that yarn: Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino

Rural Charm

Named after an English village, the Elvetham Vest by Jacqueline van Dillen is the essence of country style

Knitted in Artesano's wonderful new yarn, Alpaca Heather DK, this vest is rich in delicate detail, from the scalloped hem to the diamond pattern on the back, making it both an interesting knit and an elegant piece to wear. Visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk to see other designs from the new Alpaca Heather collection, along with the brand's many other gorgeous products, and download the patterns from www.ravelry.com.

Top £9.99, HM; Jacket £45, Matalan; at Debenhams, Jeans £19.99, T.K. Maxx

Measurements & sizes

Size:	S	(M,	L,	XL)
Actual chest (cm):	88	(96,	104,	112),
Length (cm):	50	(52,	54,	56)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Artesano Alpaca Heather DK, shade CA03 Buttermilk, 7 (8, 9, 10) 50g skeins

Needles: 4mm circular, 4mm straight, two sets, 3.5mm circular

Stitch holders

Stitch markers

Cable needle

Buttons: five

Tension Square

20 sts x 26 rows
10 x 10cm
over patt
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Special abbreviations

C3F: slip one st to cn and hold at front of work, k2, k1 from cn

C3B: slip two sts to cn and hold at back of work, k1, k2 from cn

About the Yarn

Artesano Alpaca Heather DK is spun from 50% superfine alpaca and 50% Peruvian highland wool, combining the best qualities of sheep's wool with the strength and softness of alpaca. It comes in eight earthy shades.

Let's Shop

Artesano Alpaca Heather DK costs £4.99 per 50g (100m) hank from 0131 558 1747, www.mcadirect.com

RIB

EVEN NO OF STS

☐ Row 1: [k1, p1] to end of row
Row 1 sets rib

ODD NO OF STS

☐ Row 1 (RS): [k1, p1] to last st, k1
☐ Row 2 (WS): [p1, k1] to last st, p1.
Rows 1-2 set rib

DIAMOND PATTERN

NOTE: Worked over a multiple of six sts. Sl sts wyif on WS rows and wyif on RS rows

☐ Row 1 (WS): p6
☐ Row 2: sl 1 pwise, k4, sl 1 pwise
☐ Row 3: sl 1 pwise, p4, sl 1 pwise
☐ Rows 4-5: rep Rows 2-3
☐ Row 6: C3F, C3B
☐ Row 7: p6
☐ Row 8: k2, [sl 1 pwise] twice, k2.
☐ Row 9: p2, [sl 1 pwise] twice, p2
☐ Row 10-11: rep Rows 8-9
☐ Row 12: C3B, C3F

These 12 rows set Diamond patt

Start knitting here

BODY

NOTE: front and back are knitted as one piece. Front is 2cm longer than back

Using 4mm circular needle, cast on 252 (274, 296, 318) sts. Do NOT join in the rnd

☐ Row 1: Rib 26, work Row 1 of Scallop Chart, working patt rep 8 (9, 10, 11) times, Rib 26

This row sets patt

☐ Cont in patt until all 14 rows of Scallop Chart have been worked. 225 (244, 263, 282) sts

☐ Row 15: * Rib 26, k23 (29, 35, 40), Rib 26 *, k75 (82, 89, 98), rep from * to * once

☐ Row 16: * Rib 26, p23 (29, 35, 40), Rib 26 *, p75 (82, 89, 98), rep from * to * once

☐ Rep Rows 15-16 until piece meas 12 (13, 14, 15) cm, ending after a Row 16

POCKET CUFFS

☐ Set up Row 1: Rib 26, k1 (5, 9, 12), Rib 48 (50, 52, 54), k75 (82, 89, 98),

Rib 48 (50, 52, 54), k1 (5, 9, 12), Rib 26

☐ Set up Row 2: Rib 26, p1 (5, 9, 12),

Rib 48 (50, 52, 54), p75 (82, 89, 98),

Rib 48 (50, 52, 54), p1 (5, 9, 12), Rib 26

☐ Rep Set Up Rows 1-2 until Pocket

Cuffs meas 3cm, ending after a Row 2

☐ Next row: Rib 26, k1 (5, 9, 12),

loosely cast off 22 (24, 26, 28) sts

[one st on RH needle], Rib 25, k75

(82, 89, 98), Rib 26, loosely cast off

22 (24, 26, 28) sts [one st on RH

needle], k0 (4, 8, 11), Rib 26

Set aside and work Inside Pockets

INSIDE POCKETS

(make two)

Using 4mm straight needles, cast on 22 (24, 26, 28) sts

☐ Beg with a k row work in st st for 10 (11, 12, 13) cm, ending after a WS row

Do not fasten off

Place sts on holder and work second Inside Pocket

JOIN INSIDE POCKETS

Pick up Body piece



NOTE: 3.5mm circular needle is used for the ribbing at the back of the body to gather it in and create shaping

☐ Pocket Join Row (RS): using 4mm straight needles Rib 26, k1 (5, 9, 12), k22 (24, 26, 28) from first Inside

pocket, Rib 26, change to 3.5mm

circular needle, k75 (82, 89, 98),

change to 4mm straight needles,

Rib 26, k22 (24, 26, 28) from second

Inside pocket, k1 (5, 9, 12), Rib 26

☐ Next row (WS): * Rib 26, p23 (29,

35, 40), rib 26 *, using 3.5mm

circular needle p75 (82, 89, 98),

using 4mm straight needles rep

from * to * once

☐ Buttonhole Row (RS): Rib 5,

k2tog, yrn, Rib 19, * k23 (29, 35, 40),

Rib 26 *, using 3.5mm circular

needle [k2tog, p1] 1 (0, 1, 0) times,

Rib 72 (82, 86, 98), using 4mm

straight needles Rib 26, rep from

* to *. 224 (244, 262, 282) sts

☐ Next row (WS): * Rib 26, p23 (29,

35, 40), rib 26 *, using 3.5mm

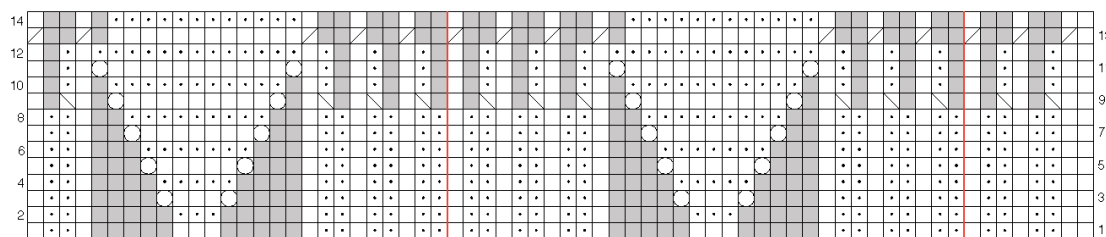
circular needle Rib 74 (81, 88, 98),

knitwise

Which needles?

This vest is not worked in the round but there are a couple of times when you are asked to use circular needles. When working the Body this is simply because there are a large number of stitches, and it is likely to be far more comfortable to spread these out and knit them on a circular needle than it is to try and knit them on straight needles. When working the lower back you are asked to switch mid-row from 4mm to 3.5mm needles and then back to 4mm again to create a tighter central section. The 3.5mm part needs to be done on a circular needle so that you can work backwards and forwards without turning.

SCALLOP CHART



Key

☐ k on RS, p on WS ☐ p on RS, k on WS ☐ k2tog ☐ p2tog ☐ yo ☐ no stitch



using 4mm straight needles rep from * to * once
☐ Next row (RS): * Rib 26, k23 (29, 35, 40), rib 26 *, using 3.5mm circular needle Rib 74 (82, 88, 98), using 4mm straight needles rep from * to * once
☐ Rep last two rows for 5cm, **AT THE SAME TIME** working a Buttonhole Row every 4cm, ending after a WS row
 Cont on 4mm circular needle only, working a Buttonhole Row every 4cm until a total of five buttonholes have been worked, working as follows:

- ☐ Next row (RS): * Rib 26, k23 (29, 35, 40), Rib 26 *, k74 (82, 88, 98), rep from * to * once
☐ Next row (WS): * Rib 26, p23 (29, 35, 40), Rib 26 *, p74 (82, 88, 98), rep from * to * once
☐ Rep last two rows until piece meas 30 (31, 32, 33) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLE

- ☐ Set up Row (RS): Rib 26, k22 (28, 34, 39), k2tog, Rib 10, cast off five sts [one st on RH needle], rib 9, skpo,

k70 (78, 84, 94), k2tog, rib 10, cast off five sts [one st on RH needle], rib 9, k2tog, k22 (28, 34, 39), Rib 26 Place Back and Right Front on stitch holders

LEFT FRONT

- ☐ Row 1 (WS): Rib 26, p23 (29, 35, 40), Rib 10. 59 (65, 71, 76) sts
☐ Row 2 (RS): cast off three sts [one st on RH needle], Rib 6, skpo, k21 (27, 33, 38), Rib 26. 55 (61, 67, 72) sts
☐ Row 3: Rib 26, p22 (28, 34, 39), Rib 7
☐ Row 4 (RS): cast off two sts [one st on RH needle], Rib 4, skpo, k20 (26, 32, 37), Rib 26. 52 (58, 64, 69) sts
☐ Row 5: Rib 26, p21 (27, 33, 38), Rib 5
☐ Row 6 (RS): cast off one st, Rib 3 [one st on RH needle], skpo, k19 (25, 31, 36), Rib 26. 50 (56, 62, 67) sts.
☐ Row 7: Rib 26, p20 (26, 32, 37), Rib 4
☐ Row 8 (RS): Rib 4, skpo, k18 (24, 30, 36), Rib 26. 49 (55, 61, 66) sts
☐ Row 9: Rib 4, p19 (25, 31, 36), Rib 26
☐ Row 10 (RS): Rib 4, skpo 1 (1, 1, 0) times, k17 (23, 29, 36), Rib 26. 48 (54, 60, 66) sts
☐ Row 11: Rib 26, p18 (24, 30, 36), Rib 4
☐ Row 12: Rib 4, k18 (24, 30, 36), Rib 26
☐ Rep Rows 11-12 for 11cm, ending after a RS row

DIAMOND SECTION

- ☐ Row 1: Rib 4, work Row 1 of Diamond Pattern 3 (4, 5, 6) times, Rib 26
☐ Row 2: Rib 26, work Row 2 of Diamond Pattern 3 (4, 5, 6) times, Rib 4
☐ Cont to work as set until piece meas 42 (43, 44, 45) cm

NECK SHAPING

Cont to work as set, working neck shaping as follows:

- ☐ Cast off 8 (5, 4, 3) sts at neck edge on next two WS rows. 32 (44, 52, 60) sts
☐ Dec one st at beg of next two WS rows. 30 (42, 40, 58) sts
☐ Cast off

BACK

Rejoin yarn to RS of work and cont on 92 (100, 106, 116) sts for Back as follows:

"It's important that you keep your place when working this pattern, so grab a pen and make use of LK's unique tick-boxes!"

LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**

FIRST, THIRD AND FOURTH SIZES ONLY

- ☐ Next row (RS): k2tog, p1, Rib 6, skpo, k70 (-, 84, 94), k2tog, Rib 6, k2tog, p1. 88 (-, 102, 112) sts.

SECOND SIZE ONLY

- ☐ Next row (RS): k2tog, p1, Rib 6, skpo, [k25, k2tog] twice, k24, k2tog, rib 6, k2tog, p1. 94 sts

ALL SIZES

- ☐ Next row (WS): cast off two sts, patt to end. 86 (92, 100, 110) sts
☐ Next row (RS): cast off two sts [one st on RH needle], patt 5, skpo, patt to last eight sts, k2tog, Rib 6. 82 (88, 96, 106) sts
☐ Next row: cast off two sts, patt to end. 80 (86, 94, 104) sts
☐ Next row: cast off two sts [one st on RH needle], patt 3, skpo, patt to last six sts, k2tog, Rib 4. 76 (82, 90, 100) sts
☐ Next row: Rib 4, p across next 68 (74, 82, 92) sts dec (dec, inc, dec) two sts across these sts, Rib 4. 74 (80, 92, 98) sts
☐ Next row: Rib 4, k66 (72, 84, 90) sts, Rib 4

DIAMOND SECTION

- ☐ Row 1: Rib 4, work Row 1 of Diamond Pattern 11 (12, 14, 15) times, Rib 4
☐ Row 2: Rib 4, work Row 2 of Diamond pattern 11 (12, 14, 15) times, Rib 4
☐ Cont to work in diamond patt as set until piece meas 50 (51, 52, 53) cm
☐ Cast off

RIGHT FRONT

- ☐ Work as for Left Front, reversing shapings

To make up

Weave in all ends and block pieces lightly to measurements. Sew shoulder seams

NECKBAND

- ☐ With RS facing, pick up and k an even number of sts between two cast-off points
☐ Work in Rib for 12cm
 Sew Inside pocket seams. Attach buttons. Block again gently for a professional finish **LK**

Indie KID

TREAT YOURSELF THIS
SPRING TO A TRULY
UNIQUE YARN FROM A
UK-BASED ARTISAN DYER

In this day and age of machines and mass production, nothing feels quite as good as supporting independent artists who are passionate about their craft. Thanks to Etsy, Folksy and the world wide web, it's easier than ever to find artisans selling gorgeous yarns that you can't get hold of anywhere else – not only are you helping to sustain their small business, but you're also getting an individual product that's a little bit different to the norm. We've rounded up eight of our favourites just for you, but remember that a lot of these yarns are hand dyed, so no two skeins are alike.

1 UNBELIEVA-WOOL

Yarn-lovers everywhere will be familiar with how tricky it can be to select the right shade for a project. This hand-dyed 4ply yarn – aptly named '7 Colour Rainbow' – easily resolves that problem! Great for both knitting and crochet, it's the perfect way to liven up your projects. One 100g (400m) skein costs £12 from

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/unbelievawool

2 THE KNITTING GODDESS

Nothing feels quite as good as knitting with British wool, and this yarn certainly makes the most of that, blending Bluefaced Leicester, Wensleydale and alpaca fibres with 20% nylon to make the finished product kind to even sensitive skin. One 100g (400m) skein costs £15 from

www.theknittinggoddess.co.uk

3 SYLVAN TIGER YARN

Spun from British Bluefaced Leicester wool and coloured in Yorkshire using only natural dyes, this 4ply yarn comes in a selection of beautiful shades, from multi-tonal colourways to variegated hues such as the gorgeous 'Spring has Sprung'. One 100g (365m) skein costs £14 from **01484 722662**, www.baabaabrighouse.co.uk

4 TRULY HOOKED

A hand-dyed, sock-weight yarn that's made from a blend of superwash merino and nylon, 'Plummy' by Truly Hooked has a little bit of sparkle running throughout that will give your knits a subtle hint of glamour. One 100g (400m) skein costs £12 from www.etsy.com/uk/shop/trulyhooked

5 LITTLE BOO YARNS

With its reference to the popular musical, 'Hairspray' is a bright, fun yarn that's made from 100% superwash merino wool. Dyed by hand in Derbyshire, Little Boo also crafts a colourful selection of accompanying crochet hooks. One 100g (365m) skein costs £14 from www.etsy.com/uk/shop/littlebooyarns





6 DYE CANDY

Made from pure superwash merino, Dye Candy's sock weight yarn 'One of a Kind' is a quirky addition to any stash. Make sure you handwash your finished knits to help preserve your hard work! One 100g (400m) skein costs £12.50 from www.etsy.com/uk/shop/dyecandylab

7 EDEN COTTAGE

Alpaca fibres are renowned for being gentle, warm and lightweight to wear. Made from 100% baby alpaca, Whitfell DK comes in seven hues, including Laburum, a cheerful yellow reminiscent of summer days. One 50g (100m) ball costs £6.50 from www.edencottageyarns.co.uk

8 SPARKLE DUCK

Silky smooth and wonderfully soft, this laceweight yarn is a brilliant choice for your next shawl or summer accessory. A combination of 70% silk and 30% seacell, it adds an air of luxury to any knit. One 100g (800m) skein costs £22 from www.sparkleduck.com

Measurements & sizes

To fit average adult female

Knit Kit

Yarn: Toft DK, shade Cream,
one 100g ball
Needles: 3.75mm

Tension Square

22 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Toft DK is a luxurious 100% wool yarn that is soft, warm and lightweight. It comes in nine natural hues from cream to deep black and knits to a standard DK tension.

Let's Shop

Toft DK costs £18.00 per 100g (225m) ball from 01788 810626, www.thetoftalpacashop.co.uk

Fast Fashion

Whip up this on-trend set using just one ball of gorgeous Toft DK

Made from a sumptuous 100% wool yarn, these pretty lace accessories are the ideal way to fend off a chilly spring breeze. The pattern is a simple openwork repeat that's suitable for beginners – you'll find a helpful explanation for how to work a 'yarn forward' in our Knitwise panel. We think this pretty set looks fabulous teamed with a trendy leather jacket, but classic lace knits like these look great with just about any outfit.

Start knitting here

WRISTWARMERS

Using 3.75mm needles, cast on 41 sts

☐ Row 1: (p2, k1), rep to last two sts, p2

☐ Row 2: (k2, p1) rep to last two sts, k2

Rows 1-2 set rib

☐ Rep Rows 1-2 until work meas 10cm

LACE SECTION

☐ Row 1 (RS): k1, * yfwd, k3tog, yfwd, k1, rep from * to end

☐ Row 2 and all WS rows: p

☐ Row 3: k1, * k2tog, yfwd, k2, rep from * to end

☐ Row 5: k2tog, * yfwd, k1, yfwd, k3tog, rep from * to last three sts, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2tog

☐ Row 7: k1, * k2, k2tog, yfwd, rep from * to last four sts, k4

☐ Row 8: p

☐ Rows 9-32: rep Rows 1-8

☐ Cast off

To make up

Sew seam leaving hole for thumb

HEADBAND

Using 3.75mm needles cast on 23 sts

☐ Work in rib as for Wristwarmers until work meas 10cm

LACE SECTION

☐ Work Rows 1-8 of Lace section as for Wristwarmers until work meas 32cm

☐ Work in rib as for Wristwarmers until work meas 42cm

☐ Cast off

To make up

Sew cast-on and cast-off edges together **LK**

knitwise

Yarn forward

Each eyelet hole in this lace pattern is created by working a 'yarn forward' (abbreviated to 'yfwd' in the pattern). As the instruction suggests, simply bring the working yarn towards you between the needles before knitting the next stitch. This creates a deliberate hole in your knitting. It also adds an extra stitch, which is why each yfwd is paired with a decrease such as k2tog (knit two together) to keep the stitch count correct.

"If you're looking for a high quality yarn that's delightful to knit with then Toft DK is a great choice"

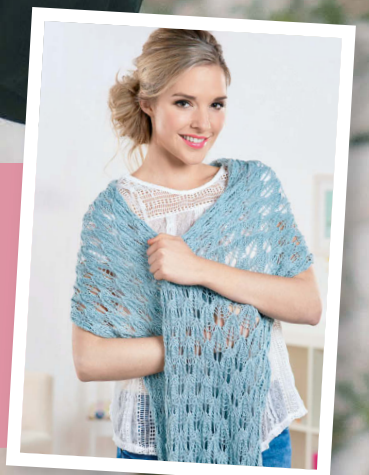
LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**

Quick and
simple one-
ball set

**coming
next issue**

COOL COTTON SHAWL
BY JULIE FERGUSON

April issue of Let's Knit on
sale Friday 20th March 2015



Measurements & Sizes

Squares (approx): 20cm x 20cm
24-square blanket: 124cm x 84cm
12-square blanket: 84cm x 64cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rico Design Essentials Merino Aran, (A) shade 040 Sage, (B) shade 012 Orchid, three 50g balls of each, (C) shade 025 Petrol, two 50g balls, (D) shade 020 Light Grey, (E) shade 015 Fuschia, three 50g balls of each, (F) shade 050 Pistachio, four 50g balls of each

NOTE: The above amounts are for the 24-square blanket. To make 12 squares, use two balls of each

Needles: 5mm

Cable needles: two

Tapestry needle

Tension Square

18 sts x 24 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
5mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rico Design Essentials Merino Aran is a soft and smooth, 100% merino wool yarn that comes in a fabulous colour range. It can be machine washed at 30°C so it's practical too!

Need an Alternative?

King Cole Merino Blend Aran is a 100% superwash wool yarn that's available in a great selection of shades.

Let's Shop

Rico Design Essentials Merino Aran has an RRP of £3.99 per 50g (100m) ball. Get yours from www.thewoolloft.co.uk
King Cole Merino Blend Aran costs £3.15 per 50g (80m) ball from 01924 565740, www.woolnstuff.co.uk

Secret Garden

Here's part three of our exclusive knitalong blanket!

These two squares are the next stitch patterns in our fabulous knitalong project, designed by Sián Brown. One features a pretty lace motif, while the other combines knit and purl stitches to give a lovely textures effect. Make one of each for a 12-square blanket or double them up for the full-sized make. Let us know how you're getting on by sharing your progress on Facebook and Twitter – use the hashtag #LKsecretgarden for reference. Find the next two squares in the April issue, on sale Friday 20th March! Purchase any of the squares you're missing from our website at the end of the project.

Start knitting here

DIAMOND LACE

Using 5mm needles and yarn C, cast on 36 sts

- ☐ Work three rows in garter st, dec one st at centre of last row. 35 sts
- ☐ Beg with a k row, work four rows in st st

- ☐ Row 1: k16, k2tog, yfwd, k to end
- ☐ Row 2 and every foll alt row: k3, p to last three sts, k3

- ☐ Row 3: k15, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 5: k14, k2tog, yfwd, k3, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 7: k13, k2tog, yfwd, k5, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 9: k12, (k2tog, yfwd, k1) twice, (yfwd, skpo, k1) twice, k to end

- ☐ Row 11: k11, k2tog, yfwd, k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k2, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 13: k10, k2tog, yfwd, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k3, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 15: k9, k2tog, yfwd, k4, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k4, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 17: k8, (k2tog, yfwd, k1) twice, yfwd, skpo, k3, k2tog, yfwd, (k1, yfwd, skpo) twice, k to end

- ☐ Row 19: k7, k2tog, yfwd, k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k2, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 21: k6, k2tog, yfwd, k3, (k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k3) twice, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 23: k8, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k to end

- ☐ Row 25: k9, yfwd, skpo, k4, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k4, k2tog, yfwd, k to end

- ☐ Row 27: k10, yfwd, skpo, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k to end

- ☐ Row 29: k11, yfwd, skpo, k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k2, k2tog, yfwd, k to end

- ☐ Row 31: k12, (yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1) twice, k to end

- ☐ Row 33: k13, yfwd, skpo, k5, k2tog, yfwd, k to end

- ☐ Row 35: k14, yfwd, skpo, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k to end

- ☐ Row 37: k15, yfwd, skpo, k1,

- k2tog, yfwd, k to end

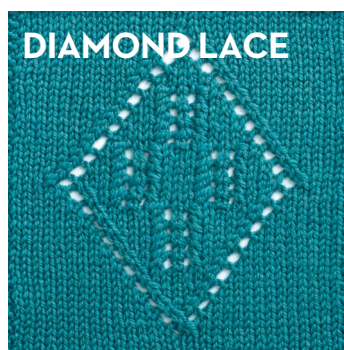
- ☐ Row 39: k16, yfwd, sl 1, k2tog, psso, yfwd, k to end

- ☐ Row 41: k17, yfwd, skpo, k to end

- ☐ Row 42 (WS): beg with a p row, work four rows in st st

- ☐ Work three rows in garter st inc one st in middle of first row. 36 sts

- ☐ Cast off



- k2tog, yfwd, k to end
- ☐ Row 39: k16, yfwd, sl 1, k2tog, psso, yfwd, k to end
- ☐ Row 41: k17, yfwd, skpo, k to end
- ☐ Row 42 (WS): beg with a p row, work four rows in st st
- ☐ Work three rows in garter st inc one st in middle of first row. 36 sts
- ☐ Cast off

GARTER STITCH STEPS

Using 5mm needles and yarn C, cast on 36 sts

- ☐ Work three rows in garter st, inc two sts evenly across last row. 38 sts

- ☐ Row 1 and every alt row (RS): k

- ☐ Rows 2 and 4: k3, * k4, p4, rep from * to last three sts, k3

- ☐ Rows 6 and 8: k5, * p4, k4, rep from * to last nine sts, p4, k5

- ☐ Rows 10 and 12: k3, * p4, k4, rep from * to last three sts, k3

- ☐ Rows 14 and 16: k3, p2, * k4, p4, rep from * to last nine sts, k4, p2, k3

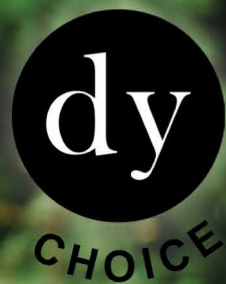
- These 16 rows set patt

- ☐ Rep Rows 1-16 until work meas approx 19cm, ending after a RS row

- ☐ Work three rows in garter st, dec two sts on first row. 36 sts

- ☐ Cast off **LK**

designeryarns



La Paz



designeryarns

dy

DYP206 from the DY Choice single leaf pattern range.
For details of the complete DY Choice range please visit:
www.designeryarns.uk.com/dy-choice





We chat with UK-based artisan **Susan Heath** and find out about the process behind her locally spun and hand-dyed yarn

In this modern age of everyday convenience, there's nothing so satisfying as supporting independent artisans who love what they do. Based in Essex, Susan Heath is one such person, working closely with sheep holders and small businesses in her area to spin and dye raw fleeces and turn them into workable yarn for us knitters. We caught up with her to find out just how she got started and why working so closely with local people is so important to her.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Spinning raw fleece into beautiful yarn is something that has been an element of Susan's life for a long time. Having learnt the art at her local Spinners and Weavers Guild 35 years ago, Susan started a textile course, studying for a year in Norwich before she chose to focus on Fine Art instead.



"The textiles course wasn't going quite the way I wanted, so I decided to concentrate on Fine Art instead," she says. For Susan, this certainly turned out to be the best decision! "I learnt all about the use of shades across

different mediums - I think it's here that my colour knowledge comes from, which is incredibly important when dyeing yarn."

However, it wasn't until a unique opportunity presented itself to Susan that she came up with the idea of spinning and dyeing local wool for a living. Due to the economic climate, a small sheep holder Susan knew declared that he would be burning all the raw fleeces from his sheep.

"Having recently started spinning again, I thought it was a terrible waste!" Susan says. "So he asked me if I wanted them. I said yes - and that was how it all started!"

THE PROCESS

There are several steps involved in turning a raw sheep fleece into a yarn that knitters and crocheters like us can use. Susan has a particular list of requirements when she's looking for good quality fleeces, notably softness and lustre, as well as the length of the wool fibres and the colour of the fleece.

"I like white fleeces for dyeing," she comments. "If there's a





crimp in the fibres that will add to the softness, because when it's spun, it will give the yarn bounce and spring."

Once Susan has sorted the fleeces, she sends them off to a mill, where they are scoured, washed, spun and carded. It can take up to six months for the fleeces to come back to Susan in the form of skeins, ready to be dyed in a wide range of bright and beautiful shades.

"The primary reason I send them to the mill is because I can't handspin enough for the amount I want to dye - I'd be up all night!" Susan laughs. "By using the mill, I can dye the yarn that comes back as I want."

A LOCAL CRAFT

Susan is an avid supporter of British wool and she prides herself on the fact that all of her finished yarn is spun from fleeces supplied by farmers who all live within five miles of her home. She recognises that home grown yarn is a real backbone of her local community.

"I love British wool - all the churches in Suffolk were based on the wool trade, and it's a shame that such an industry should die down. One of my business cards reads: 'Our aim is to help local sheep owners find better uses for their fleeces. We now offer yarn spun at our organic mill, and hand-dyed yarn and fleeces from local Suffolk Romney sheep.' That really says what we're trying to do!"

Even after the final sale has been made, Susan believes it's important to maintain a strong relationship with her customers. Feedback, both good and bad, is something that is very important to Susan, and every month she attends a meeting at her local guild where she meets face-to-face with some of her customers.

"It's great meeting up once a month at the guild," she explains. "People always come and show me what they've done, whether that's a little bit of spinning from a fleece that they've bought from me or a knitting project from one of my yarns. It's really inspiring."

LOOKING AHEAD

Working with wool in such a close, personal way isn't something that Susan is going to give up any time soon. She tells us, "I've always sewn, knitted and done things with my hands - that's



"I love taking a dirty bit of fleece and turning it into something nice... To see it at the end is really rewarding."

probably why they're so gnarled now! - but I love taking a dirty bit of fleece, a raw product, and turning it into something nice. I get a big thrill from that.

"Seeing what people have made with the yarn I have created is what gives me the most pleasure. I take a long time working on the wool, from sorting it and picking out leaves to spinning and dyeing it - to see it at the end is really rewarding."

To find out more about Susan Heath, head over to her website, www.susan-heath.co.uk



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Take a look at these other artisans making it big on the yarn scene

LITTLE BOO YARNS

Debs, the lady behind Little Boo Yarns, started dyeing her own yarns two years ago when she couldn't find the perfect yarn for her project. She has certainly come a long way since then - she now has her own Etsy shop, is part of the indie designers' group Yarn Mama, and has recently acquired her very own studio. www.etsy.com/uk/shop/LittleBooYarns



WOOLYKNIT

Founded by managing director and spinner Roger Shepley, Woollyknit is a family-run company based in Yorkshire that specialises in creating yarns, fibres and clothing from products sourced within the UK. Their mill in Saddleworth now has an relaxing adjoining cafe alongside their factory shop. www.woolyknit.com



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EXCLUSIVE TO

Let's
knit

Electric Ivy

Practise your cabling with these pretty mittens by Jane Burns

It's no secret that we at Let's Knit love British wool, so of course we are huge fans of these cabled mittens in gorgeous West Yorkshire Spinners yarn! They're just big enough to fit a small adult or teenager, and the bright colour makes a fantastic fashion statement. There are five more candy-cane colours in the range, or you can choose from a selection of subtle spice-rack shades.

knitwise

Joining in the round

Once you have cast on the correct number of stitches, there are a few different ways to join your work in the round. For an invisible join, use the right-hand needle to pick up the first stitch on the left-hand needle. Then use the left-hand needle to pick up what was originally the first stitch on the right-hand needle, and pull this over the top of the stitch you have just moved over, so that your first two stitches cross over. Then begin knitting Round 1. Be sure to place a marker at the beginning of the round so that you do not lose your place in the pattern.



meet our
DESIGNER

"These mittens were inspired by my Sugar Candy socks in the January issue. My daughter looked at them and promptly requested a matching pair of mittens in a bubblegum blue colour!"

JANE BURNS

Measurements & Sizes

To fit: **teen to small adult**
 Circumference: **18cm**
 Length: **17cm**

Knit Kit

Yarn: **West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4ply**, shade **Bubblegum**, one 100g ball
 Needles: **2.75mm double-pointed**
 Cable needle
 Waste yarn
 Stitch markers

Tension Square

24 sts x 40 rows
10cm x 10cm
over patt
2.75mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Special Abbreviations

Tw4F: sl two sts on to cn, hold to front of work, p2, k2 from cn

Tw4B: sl two sts on to cn, hold to back of work, k2, p2 from cn

About the Yarn

West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4ply uses 75% wool, 35% of which comes from luxurious Bluefaced Leicester fleeces. The yarn also contains nylon for extra strength.



Need an Alternative?

For a pure wool alternative, try Wendy Merino 4ply, which comes in strong, simple shades. It can be machine washed at 30°C.

Let's Shop

West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4ply has an RRP of £7.20 per 100g (400m) ball. For stockists, go to www.wyspinners.com

Wendy Merino 4ply costs £3.29 per 50g (175m ball) from 0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

For 10% off all orders at Wool Warehouse, turn to page 73

10% OFF!

Start knitting here

LEFT MITTEN

** Using 2.75mm dpns and long tail cast on, cast on 68 sts and distribute evenly over four needles, join into the rnd taking care not to twist sts
☐ Rnds 1-8: * k1, p2, [k4, p4] three times, k4, p2, k1, rep from * to end **

HAND

Beg working from Chart A as follows:
☐ Rnd 1: work Rnd 1 from Chart A, k34
☐ Rnd 2: work Rnd 2 from Chart A, k34
☐ Rnds 3-16: complete Chart as set
☐ Rnds 17-32: rep Chart A once more

THUMB GUSSET

☐ Rnd 1: work Rnd 1 from Chart A, k33, pm, m1, pm, k1. 69 sts
☐ Rnd 2: work Rnd 2 from Chart A, k33, sm, k to next marker, sm, k1
☐ Rnd 3: work Rnd 3 from Chart A, k33, sm, m1, k to next marker, m1, sm, k1. 71 sts
☐ Rnds 4-16: cont to work Chart A inc on alt rnds as set. 83 sts
☐ Rnds 17-19: work Rnds 1-3 from Chart B inc as set until there are 19 sts between markers
☐ Rnd 20: work Rnd 4 from Chart B, k33, rm, sl 19 sts on to waste yarn for thumb, rm, k1. 68 sts
☐ Rnds 21-31: work Rnds 5-15 from Chart B as set
☐ Rnd 32: work Rnd 16 from Chart B, k15, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k16. 64 sts
☐ Rnd 33: work Rnd 17 from Chart B, k14, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k15. 60 sts
☐ Rnd 34: work Rnd 18 from Chart B, k13, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k14. 56 sts
☐ Rnd 35: work Rnd 19 from Chart B, k12, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k13. 52 sts
☐ Rnd 36: work Rnd 20 from Chart B, k11, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k12. 48 sts

I-CORD CAST OFF

☐ Cast two sts on to LH needle, k2, k2tog tbl, sl three sts just worked back to LH needle, * k2, k2tog tbl, sl three sts to LH needle, rep from * until two sts rem, k1, k2tog tbl. Two sts
 Cut yarn leaving a long tail, pull through sts and fasten off. Weave in all ends

LEFT THUMB

Sl 19 sts from waste yarn back on to three dpns
☐ Rnd 1: with RS facing, rejoin yarn, k all sts, pick up and k three

CHART A

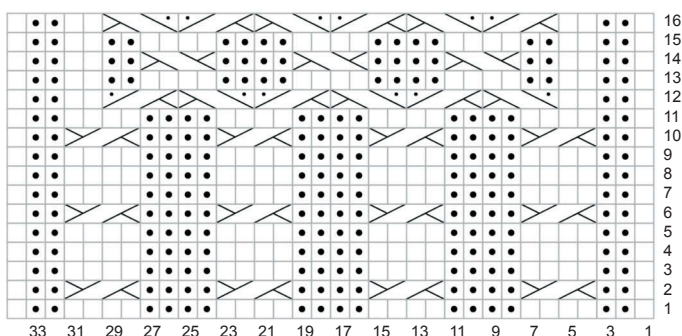
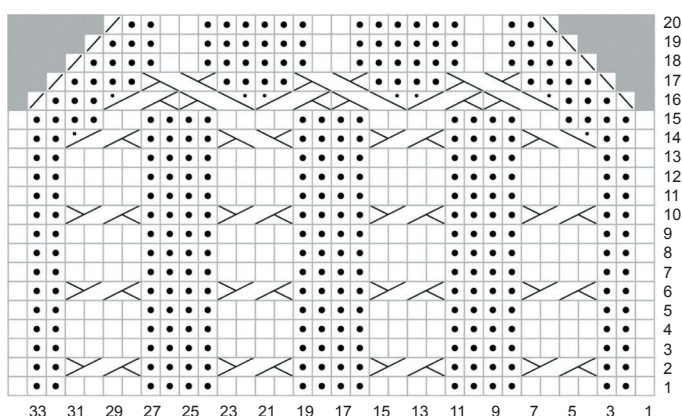


CHART B



KEY

	knit		purl
	Tw4B		k2tog
	Tw4F		no st
	C4B		ssk
	C4F		

sts along opening and join in the rnd. 22 sts
☐ Rnds 2-4: k
☐ Work i-cord cast off as for hand, weave in ends

RIGHT MITTEN

☐ Work as for Left mitten from ** to **

HAND

Beg working from Chart A as follows:
☐ Rnd 1: k34, work Rnd 1 from Chart A
☐ Rnd 2: k34, work Rnd 2 from Chart A
☐ Rnds 3-16: work Chart as set
☐ Rnds 17-32: rep Chart A once more

THUMB GUSSET

☐ Rnd 1: k1, pm, m1, pm, k33, work Rnd 1 from Chart A. 69 sts
☐ Rnd 2: k1, sm, k to next marker, sm, k33, work Rnd 2 from Chart A
☐ Rnd 3: k1, sm, m1, k to next marker, m1, sm, k33, work Rnd 3 from Chart A. 71 sts

☐ Rnds 4-16: cont to work Chart A inc on alt rnds as set. 83 sts
☐ Rnds 17-19: work Rnds 1-3 from Chart B inc as set until there are 19 sts between markers
☐ Rnd 20: k1, rm, sl next 19 sts on to waste yarn for thumb, rm, k33, work Rnd 4 from Chart B. 68 sts
☐ Rnds 21-31: work Rnds 5-15 from Chart B as set
☐ Rnd 32: k15, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k16, work Rnd 16 from Chart B. 64 sts
☐ Rnd 33: k14, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k15, work Rnd 17 from Chart B. 60 sts
☐ Rnd 34: k13, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k14, work Rnd 18 from Chart B. 56 sts
☐ Rnd 35: k12, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k13, work Rnd 19 from Chart B. 52 sts
☐ Rnd 36: k11, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k12, work Rnd 20 from Chart B. 48 sts
☐ Work i-cord cast off as for Left mitten, weave in ends

RIGHT THUMB

☐ Work as for Left thumb. Weave in ends **LK**



Why I Love my local YARN SHOP!

We take a look at why your local store is important to you

Yarn shops are more than just a place to buy a ball of wool or two for your next project. They're somewhere for us knitters to get friendly advice, top tips, pick up new skills, join knitting groups and meet other like-minded yarn lovers. With Yarn Shop Day coming up on May 2nd, we've been finding out why your local shop matters so much to you and the people who run them.

What is Yarn Shop Day?

Yarn Shop Day was started in 2014 by us here at Let's Knit as a way for the knitting community to show some love for our bricks and mortar stores. There will be a wide range of activities going on at different stores on May 2nd, including discounts, workshops and visits from top knitting designers – this is an event you won't want to miss! This year, it's being supported by ICHF Events, who host some fantastic craft shows (win tickets for the Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts show by entering online – turn to page 91 for details.)

Is my shop taking part in Yarn Shop Day?

You can find out whether your nearest store is taking place by visiting www.letsknit.co.uk

I own a local store and I want to be involved!

If you run a yarn shop and want to take part in Yarn Shop Day, email ysd@letsknit.co.uk for more information and your starter pack.

How do I find out more?

Keep an eye on our website and social media for upcoming news and information!



The Slipped Stitch, Sherborne

"I always come to The Slipped Stitch when I start a new project. It is so important to me to have a local yarn shop – if The Slipped Stitch wasn't here I would have to travel, and as I have no proper transport it would be a real problem for me."

- The Slipped Stitch customer
Brenda Harvey

Sitting Knitting, Sutton Coldfield

"Last year's event was such a huge success and we know it will be amazing this year too. There will be plenty of tea, cake, and some warm May weather will allow us to knit in the shop garden and make the day go with a swing. Can't wait!"

- Sitting Knitting owner Rachel



Avicraft Wool, Bromley

"For this year's big event, we'll be having an all day workshop, a tutor on hand to help with any knitty problems, and in the evening there will be a 'Yarn Tasting' sponsored by Rico. There will be special discounts and offers, too!"

- Avicraft Wool owner Sharon



Yarn on the Square, Ely

"I'm a novice knitter and still need a bit of guidance, so I like going to a bricks and mortar shop. The ladies who run Yarn on the Square are friendly, helpful, and obviously very talented! You might be able to get things a little bit cheaper online, but you just can't get the advice, encouragement and fun of going into your local store. Yarn on the Square is a specialist shop – run by people who know their stuff, not just a screen on the PC!"

- Yarn on the Square customer Jane Hill

Ray of Sunshine

Put a smile on your face with these beautiful yellow yarns



Pattern 7075 from Sirdar, £2.50,
0131 558 1747, www.mcadirect.com

1 West Yorkshire Spinners Bluefaced Leicester Aran – shade 201 Catkin has an RRP of £4.85 per 50g (83m) ball, for stockists call **01535 664500**, www.wyspinners.com

2 Katia Big Ribbon – shade 18 has an RRP of £8.70 per 200g (72m) ball, for stockists go to www.katia.com

3 James C. Brett Top Value DK – shade 8411 has an RRP of £1.85 per 100g (290m) ball, for stockists call **01274 565959**, www.jamescbrett.co.uk

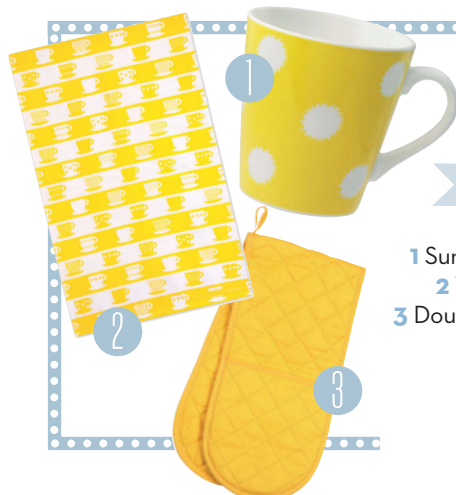
4 Scheepjes Cotton 8 – shade 551 Yellow costs £1.99 per 50g (170m) ball from **0800 488 0708**, www.deramores.com

5 Wendy Mode DK – shade 257 Lemon Squash costs £2.10 per 50g (142m) ball from **01782 862332**, www.cucumberpatch.com

6 King Cole Big Value Chunky – shade 828 Yellow costs £2.37 per 100g (157m) ball from **0845 003 0775**, www.wool4less.co.uk

7 Manos del Uruguay Serena – shade 2020 Swallow Tail has an RRP of £10.99 per 50g (155m) skein, for stockists call **01829 740903**, www.roosteryarns.com

8 Rowan Creative Linen – shade 640 Sunflower costs £8.95 per 100g (200m) skein from **01244 389310**, www.stashfineyarns.com



FASHION accent

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR KITCHEN

- 1 Sun Spot Stanley Mug**, £6.50, **08450 262 440**, www.cathkidston.com
- 2 Yellow Cups Tea Towel**, £12, **01865 988074**, www.jangneus.com
- 3 Double Oven Glove**, £10.39, **01227 709455**, www.legendcookshop.co.uk
- 4 Gisela Graham Jar**, £11, **0845 130 8229**, www.tch.net
- 5 Two-cup Teapot**, £9.99, **01509 212560**, www.tylers.co.uk



Stitch in Time

EXCLUSIVE TO
let's knit

*Keep your notions safe and sound in
Charmaine Fletcher's sewing box*

This handy little project was inspired by Victorian-style etui sewing boxes. It has a lovely fold-out construction and fabulous details from the beaded ties to integrated pin cushion and flower-adorned notions bags inside. There are lots of elements to this make, but they are all relatively straightforward to knit – just pay close attention when assembling your box to ensure it all folds out as it should.



meet our
DESIGNER

"This box comprises five external pieces in the main colour and five internal pieces in the contrast colour. It also has an integrated pincushion, a scissors case and three bags for small items."

CHARMAINE FLETCHER

Measurements & sizes

When made up: 14cm x 14cm
 Small triangles (lining): 11cm x 10.5cm
 Base (lining): 10.5cm x 10.5cm
 Ties (excl. beads): 15cm
 Bags: 4cm x 7cm
 Scissor Case: 10.5cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: King Cole Bamboo Cotton DK, (A) shade 543 Oyster, two 100g balls, (B) shade 628 Mauve, one 100g ball

Needles: 3mm straight, 3.75mm straight, 2.75mm double-pointed, 3.25mm double-pointed

Tapestry needle

Sewing needle and clear thread

Lockable stitch markers

Stiff card: A3

Beads: 4mm, purple, two; 6mm, pearl, ten

Felt

Wadding

Tension Square

18 sts x 26 rows (slightly stretched)
 10cm x 10cm
 stocking stitch
 3.75mm needles

Special Abbreviations

m1l: insert LH needle into horizontal bar between sts from front to back, k into back of this loop

m1r: insert LH needle into horizontal bar between sts from back to front, k into front of this loop

i-cord: see page 40

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

King Cole Bamboo Cotton DK is a 50/50 blend of cotton and bamboo-sourced viscose. Both these plant fibres give excellent stitch definition and the bamboo adds a pretty sheen to knitted projects. Choose from 27 shades.

Need an Alternative?

Any smooth DK weight yarn will work for this project. Try Rico Essentials Merino DK for pure wool yarn that's available in a wide range of shades.

Start knitting here

SIDE TRIANGLES

(make four)

Using 3.75mm straight needles, yarn A and thumb method, cast on 28 sts

□ Row 1 (RS): k2, p to last two sts, k2

□ Rows 2-4: beg with a p row, work in st st

□ Row 5: k1, skpo, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 26 sts

□ Rep Rows 2-5 until 16 sts rem, ending after a WS row

□ Row 27: as Row 5. 14 sts

□ Row 28: p to end

□ Rep Rows 27-28 until six sts rem, ending after a WS row

□ Row 37: k1, sl 2 kwise, k2tog, p2sso, k1. Three sts

LOOPS

NOTE: worked on two triangles only

Change to 2.75 mm dpns

□ Work an i-cord over these three sts until cord meas 5cm

□ Next row: slide sts to other end of dpn, pass second and third sts over first and off needle. One st

□ Fasten off, leaving a tail

TIE

NOTE: worked on two rem triangles only

□ Work as for Loops, but work until i-cord meas 15cm

Attach one pearl and one purple bead to end of each tie using clear thread

SIDE TRIANGLE HEM

NOTE: this holds card and wadding in place on reverse side of triangles

Find centre of base of each triangle, pm

□ Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, starting at marker, pick up and k 14 sts along bottom edge, 36 sts up side edge, move loop or tie to front between dpns, pick up and k 36 sts down other side edge and 14 sts along bottom edge to marker. 100 sts

□ Rnd 1 (RS): k12, (skpo, k2tog, k32) twice, skpo, k2tog, k12. 94 sts

□ Rnd 2: k11, (skpo, k2tog, k30)

twice, skpo, k2tog, k11. 88 sts

□ Rnd 3: k10, (skpo, k2tog, k28) twice, skpo, k2tog, k10. 82 sts

□ Rnd 4: k9, (skpo, k2tog, k26)

twice, skpo, k2tog, k9. 76 sts

□ Rnd 5: k8, (skpo, k2tog, k24)

twice, skpo, k2tog, k8. 70 sts

Change to 2.75mm dpns

□ Rnd 6: k7, (skpo, k2tog, k22)

twice, skpo, k2tog, k7. 64 sts

□ Cast off five sts [one st on RH needle], * sl 2 kwise, k2tog, p2sso, pass second st on RH needle over rem st and off needle *, cast off 19 sts [one st on RH needle], rep from * to * once, cast off 19 sts [one st on RH needle], rep from * to * once, cast off rem sts

SQUARE BASE

Using 3.75mm straight needles, yarn A and thumb method, cast on three sts

NOTE: worked diagonally with garter st edge detail

□ Row 1 (RS): k1, m1r, k1, m1l,

k1. Five sts

□ Row 2: p1, k to last st, p1

□ Row 3: k1, kfb, k1, kfb, k1. Seven sts

□ Row 4: p1, k2, p1, k2, p1

□ Row 5: k1, kfb, k to last two sts,

kfb, k1. Nine sts

□ Row 6: p1, k2, p to last three sts, k2, p1

□ Row 7: k1, kfb, k to last two sts, kfb, k1. 11 sts

□ Row 8: p1, k2, p to last three sts, k2, p1

□ Rep Rows 7-8 until there are 33 sts on the needle ending after a WS row

□ Row 31 (RS): k1, skpo, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 31 sts

□ Row 32: p1, k2, p to last three sts, k2, p1

□ Rep Rows 31-32 until five sts rem, ending after a RS row

□ Row 58 (WS): p1, k to last st, p1

□ Row 59: k1, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k1. Three sts

□ Cast off

NOTE: this will form a diamond but when stretched will become square shaped

SQUARE BASE HEM

NOTE: if you have short length dpns, you may need an extra needle

Find centre of one side edge of Square base, pm

□ Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, starting at marker, pick up and k 15 sts along bottom edge, 30 sts up three side edges and 15 sts along bottom edge to marker. 120 sts

□ Rnd 1 (RS): k13, skpo, k2tog,



"It may help to label your knitted pieces as you work them, to help you keep track when it comes to making up"

LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**

(k26, skpo, k2tog) three times, k13. 112 sts

□ Rnd 2: k12, skpo, k2tog, (k24, skpo, k2tog) three times, k12. 104 sts

□ Rnd 3: k11, skpo, k2tog, (k22, skpo, k2tog) three times, k11. 96 sts

□ Rnd 4: k10, skpo, k2tog, (k20, skpo, k2tog) three times, k10. 88 sts

□ Rnd 5: k9, skpo, k2tog, (k18, skpo, k2tog) three times, k9. 80 sts

Change to 2.75mm dpns

□ Rnd 6: k8, skpo, k2tog, (k16, skpo, k2tog) three times, k8. 72 sts

□ Cast off six sts [one st on RH needle], * sl 2 kwise, k2tog, p2sso, pass second st on RH needle over rem st and off needle *, (cast-off 13 sts [one st on RH needle], rep from * to * once) three times, cast off rem sts

LINING TRIANGLES

(make four)

Using 3.75mm straight needles, yarn B and thumb method, cast on 24 sts

□ Row 1 (RS): k2, p to last two sts, k2

□ Rows 2-4: beg with a p row, work in st st

□ Row 5: k1, skpo, k to last three



knitwise

Picot cast off

The Small flower, Bags and Scissors case all feature a decorative cast-off technique which creates a row of little points. There are several ways of doing this, here is how designer Charmaine worked her picot cast off:

Slip one stitch purlwise, * inserting your RH needle into the centre of the next st on the LH needle, cast on one stitch, return the slipped stitch to the LH needle. Knit the first two stitches on the LH needle - that's the slipped stitch and cast-on stitch - pass the furthest stitch on the RH needle over the nearest stitch and let it drop off the needle. Knit the next stitch on the LH needle, then pass the furthest stitch on the RH needle over the nearest stitch and off the needle. Repeat from * to the end of row and all stitches will have been cast off.

sts, k2tog, k1. 22 sts
 □ Rep Rows 2-5 until 14 sts rem, ending after a WS row
 □ Row 23 (RS): as Row 5. 12 sts
 □ Row 24: p to end
 □ Rep Rows 23-24 until six sts rem, ending after a WS row
 □ Row 31 (RS): k1, sl 2 kwise, k2tog, p2sso, k1, do not turn. Three sts
 □ Pass second and third sts over first st and off needle, fasten off

LINING BASE SQUARE

Using 3.75mm straight needles, yarn B and thumb method, cast on three sts
 □ Rows 1-8: work as for Square base
 □ Rep Rows 7-8 until there are 27 sts, ending after a WS row
 □ Row 25 (RS): k1, skpo, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 25 sts
 □ Row 26: p1, k2, p to last three sts, k2, p1
 □ Rep Rows 25-26 until five sts rem, ending after a WS row
 □ Row 47 (RS): k1, sl 2 kwise, k1, p2sso, k1. Three sts
 □ Row 48: p1, k to last st, p1
 □ Cast off

LINING BASE SQUARE HEM

NOTE: if you have short length dpns, you may need an extra needle

Find centre of one side edge of lining base square, pm
 □ Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn B, starting at marker, pick up and k 12 sts along bottom edge, 24 sts up each of three sides and 12 sts along bottom edge to marker. 96 sts
 □ Rnd 1 (RS): k10, skpo, k2tog, (k20, skpo, k2tog) three times, k10. 88 sts
 □ Rnd 2: k9, skpo, k2tog, (k18, skpo, k2tog) three times, k9. 80 sts
 □ Rnd 3: k8, skpo, k2tog, (k16, skpo, k2tog) three times, k8. 72 sts
 Change to 2.75mm dpns
 □ Rnd 4: k7, skpo, k2tog, (k14, skpo, k2tog) three times, k7. 64 sts
 □ Cast off five sts [one st on RH needle], * sl 2 kwise, k2tog, p2sso, pass second st on RH needle over rem st and off needle *, (cast off 11 sts [one st on RH needle], rep from * to * once) three times, cast off rem sts

LARGE FLOWERS

(make four)

NOTE: right side of finished flower shows p sts

Using 3mm straight needles, yarn B and thumb method, cast on 36 sts
 □ Row 1 (WS): (p1, pm, p5) six times
 □ Row 2: (k1, cast off four sts [one st on RH needle]) to end, leaving last loop on needle. 12 sts
 □ Row 3: p to end
 □ Row 4: k to end
 □ Cut yarn leaving a long tail,

thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

Using cast-on yarn tail, join top of petal neatly. Using clear thread, sew a pearl bead in centre

SMALL FLOWERS

(make four)

Using 3mm needles, yarn B and thumb method, cast on five sts
 □ Row 1 (WS): p to end
 □ Row 2: kfb in each st to end. Ten sts
 □ Work picot cast-off (see Knitwise, p71)

CONTINUED ON P88





5 Minute chat

Tracy O'Brien, owner of TAJ Crafts

Can you tell us a little more about Taj Crafts?

We are a brand new business, established in August 2014, based on the lovely Isle of Wight. We stock a wide range of needles and hooks, embroidery materials, knitting yarns from Drops, Stylecraft and Noro, as well as a great selection of books and patterns.

What do you think makes Taj Crafts so unique?

We pride ourselves on our friendly and helpful customer service. We also try to source items from more independent companies for our customers, which is why we stock Devon Sun Yarns and crochet hooks from Little Boo Yarns.

Why do you think that local yarn shops are so important?

Local yarn shops are the life blood of crafts. They promote and nurture interest; they allow a 'real person' to offer help and advice with any issues the customer may have, and most importantly of all allow customers to see and feel the yarns and products before making any decision.

What do you look for when choosing your stock?

Mostly I look for quality, variety, and affordability, whilst also trying to source stock from less mainstream suppliers.

Can you give us a sneak peek for your Yarn Shop Day plans?

We will be offering free taster sessions in embroidery, crochet and knitting, and a raffle to win workshop spaces and other prizes.

Find out more at www.tajcrafts.co.uk

what's in... STORE?

GET THE HOT GOSSIP FROM YOUR FAVOURITE SHOPS AROUND THE UK



The Textile Studio

Fabulous craft haven The Textile Studio is now bigger and better than before! The Belfast shop has recently expanded into the empty store next door, allowing extra space for even more knitty goods. If you're in the area, why not attend one of their new Drop In and Knit sessions? Visit www.textilestudiobelfast.co.uk or call 028 9065 0191 for more.



Sweet dreams

Keep your little one's pyjamas – or even your own! – tucked away in one of these adorable pyjama cases from Knitting By Post. Choose your favourite from a great range of quirky characters, from a bright blue elephant to a mythical unicorn! Both the downloadable and leaflet version of the pattern cost £2.49 from www.knittingbypost.co.uk



Stitch Solihull

Yarn Shop Day on May 2nd is looking to be a day to remember! Stitch Solihull in the West Midlands are participating for the second time and store owner Ana is already planning for the event. "Last year we offered discounts throughout the store as well as special Make and Take workshops for all ages. We're hoping to make Yarn Shop Day 2015 even bigger and better!" 01213 146888, www.stitchsolihull.tictail.com

Knitique

Selling a great selection of needles, hooks and high quality yarns from the likes of Sirdar, Debbie Bliss and Bergere de France, Knitique in Lichfield is a lovely place to go when you need to replenish your stash. You'll be completing your next project in no time! Go to www.knitiqueonline.com for the full range.

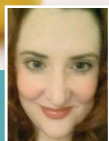


EXCLUSIVE TO
Let's
Knit

Easter Greetings

Nicola Valiji's seasonal cards are also cute finger puppets!

It's always nice to give something that's pretty and practical, and these cheerful greetings are **marvellously multifunctional**. The chick and bunny are sweet little finger puppets that are attached to the card with sticky foam pads, and can be removed and played with. If you don't have kids, the puppets would also work well as egg cosies!



meet our
DESIGNER

"These fun Easter cards double up as finger puppets and are a good non-chocolate gift for a child."

NICOLA VALIJI

Measurements & sizes

Cards: 12.5cm x 17.5cm
 Easter egg: 12.5cm tall x 10cm wide
 Chick: 7.5cm tall x 5.5cm wide (excl. wings)
 Bunny: 10.5cm tall x 5.5cm wide

Knit Kit

Yarn: DMC Natura Just Cotton, (A) shade N25 Aguamarina, (B) shade N82 Lobelia, (C) shade N43 Golden Lemon, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3mm

Tapestry needle

Sewing needle and thread

Ribbon: satin; lace

Buttons: small

Googly eyes: four

Card blanks: scallop-edged, 12.5cm x 17.5cm

Paper: polka dot

Tape: double-sided

Felt: red

Foam pads

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

DMC Natura Just Cotton is a 4ply cotton yarn with a soft, matte finish. It comes in an impressive range of 60 shades.

Need an Alternative?

Any 4ply yarn from your stash would work well for these quick makes. Try to choose pretty spring colours and why not experiment with textured effects, too?

Let's Shop

DMC Natura Just Cotton costs £3.15 per 50g (155m) ball from 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com

knitwise

Safety first

If these finger puppets are for very young children, you'll have to make some adjustments to the design to ensure they are nice and safe. Instead of gluing on googly eyes, embroider eyes using sewing thread, and make sure all the pieces are really securely attached by oversewing them several times.

Start knitting here

EASTER EGG

Using 3mm needles and yarn A, cast on ten sts

□ Row 1 (RS): kfb, k to last st, kfb. 12 sts

□ Row 2: k

□ Rep Rows 1-2 until there are 26 sts, ending after a WS row

□ Beg with a k row, work four rows in st st

Change to yarn B

□ K 14 rows

Change to yarn C

□ Next row: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. 24 sts

□ K two rows

□ Rep last three rows until 12 sts rem

□ Next row: (k2tog) to end. Six sts

□ Next row: (k2tog) to end. Three sts

□ Cast off

CHICK BODY

Using 3mm needles and yarn C, cast on 28 sts

□ K one row

□ Beg with a k row, work 22 rows in st st

□ Next row: (k2tog) to end. 14 sts

□ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

CHICK WINGS

Using 3mm needles and yarn C, cast on six sts

□ Row 1: k

□ Row 2: kfb, k to last st, kfb. Eight sts

□ Rows 3-11: k

□ Row 12: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. Six sts

□ Rep last row until two sts rem

□ Cast off

BUNNY BODY

□ Using 3mm needles and yarn A, work as for Chick body



BUNNY EARS (make two)

Using 3mm needles and yarn A, cast on four sts

□ K 12 rows

□ Next row: (k2tog) twice. Two sts

□ Next row: sl 1, k1, pssso. One st

□ Fasten off

To make up

EASTER EGG

Lightly press Easter egg so it lies flat. Weave in ends. Using photo as a guide, embellish egg with ribbon

and lace trimmings. Sew or glue on small buttons to finish

FINGER PUPPETS

Lightly press Chick and Bunny body pieces. Use yarn tail to sew back seam. Glue on googly eyes, using picture as a guide. For Chick, cut a small triangle of red felt for beak and sew in place. Sew on Chick wings. Using pink sewing thread, embroider a nose on front of Bunny body. Use black thread to stitch whiskers, as shown. Weave in all ends

CARDS

Using double-sided tape, stick spotty paper on to front of card blank, leaving a 2cm border all around. Attach foam pads to back of Easter egg, Bunny and Chick, and stick to card **LK**



"Why not get creative and see what other finger puppets you can create using the same body design?"

LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**



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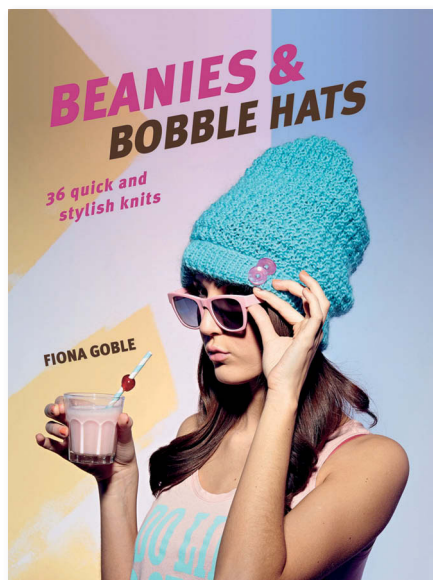


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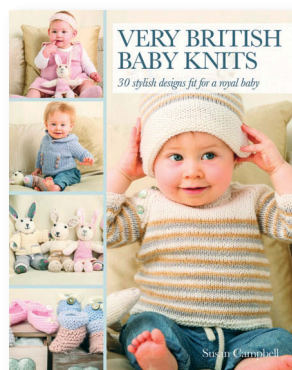
BEANIES & BOBBLE HATS

Fiona Goble (£12.99, Cico Books)

Author of *Knit Your Own Royal Wedding* Fiona Goble has turned her talents to headwear and come up with 36 trendy hat designs for her latest book. There are ideas for men, women and children, all with a fun and fashionable feel. Styles include a zig zag bobble hat, a peaked newsboy beret and a pumpkin beanie for kids.

www.rylandpeters.com

LK SAYS: you can never have too many hats!



VERY BRITISH BABY KNITS

Susan Campbell (£12.99, Search Press)

Norfolk-based author Susan Campbell can rightly claim that her designs are 'fit for a Royal Baby' - her bespoke pieces have graced no less a client than Prince George himself! The 30 patterns in this book, including toys, clothes and

accessories, reflect the classic elegance of British design, and many are suitable for beginners. www.searchpress.com



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Jo is one half of yarn-tasting club The Golden Skein, and her regular podcast is a healthy mix of knitting, yarn and comedy. With reviews, competitions and regular features such as Sock Surgery and Wippen Piccadilly it's a lively listen.



BLOG BOHOKNITS

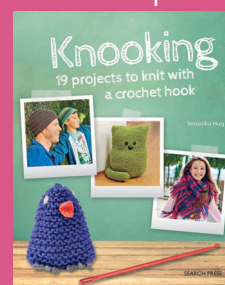
bohoknits.blogspot.co.uk

Prolific designer Kelly is known online as Bohoknits, and on her blog you'll find countless patterns for funky hats, cowl and scarves both for sale and for free. The iconic Sockhead hat and the stunning Glenora (right) are two of our favourites!



Pick up a skill!

WIN A COPY ON PAGE 91!



KNOOKING

Veronika Hug (£5.99, Search Press)

The 19 projects in this book may look knitted but they've actually been made with a crochet hook! Discover the

technique of knooking with step-by-step instructions. Patterns range from baby hats to full size blankets! www.searchpress.com

EXCLUSIVE TO

Let's
knit

Block busters

Lynne Rowe's sweater makes a statement with bold bands of colour and is accessorised with a twisted cowl

You don't need to use overly elaborate stitch patterns to get yourself noticed: sometimes the simplest of designs can look the most eye-catching. This bright sweater uses colour blocking to great effect and combines moss and stocking stitch for a subtly textured finish. The cowl has a twist in the centre for added interest. Get the yarn and needles for this pattern at your local yarn shop!



meet our
DESIGNER

"This yarn knits into a soft, lightweight fabric which is perfect for a summery jumper as it's ideal for cooler days or chilly evenings. The cowl is detachable and you could use your leftovers to make a second cowl in a stripy pattern."

LYNNE ROWE

Measurements & sizes

JUMPER

Dress size (approx):

8-10 (10-12, 12-14, 14-16, 16-18)

To fit chest (cm):

81-86 (86-91, 91-97, 97-102, 102-107)

Actual chest (cm):

84 (90, 95, 99, 104)

Length from shoulder (cm):

61 (64, 65, 68, 69)

Sleeve length (cm):

32 (32, 32, 33, 33)

COWL

Circumference (approx): 72cm

Tension Square

22 sts x 28 rows

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4mm needles

Knit Kit

Yarn: King Cole Bamboo Cotton DK, **Jumper:** (A) shade 544 Red, (B) shade 625 Old Gold, (C) shade 533 Green, one 100g ball of each, (D) shade 519 Lemon Sorbet, 2 (3, 3, 3, 3) 100g balls, **Cowl:** one 100g ball

Needles: Jumper: 3.25mm straight, 4mm straight, Cowl: 4mm (60cm) circular

Stitch markers

Tapestry needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

King Cole Bamboo Cotton DK is a 50/50 blend of bamboo-sourced viscose and cotton. These two plant fibres are cool on the skin and have excellent stitch definition, so work well with moss stitch patterns. Choose from 27 shades.

Let's Shop

King Cole Bamboo Cotton DK has an RRP of £4.99 per 100g (230m) ball. For stockists, turn to our stockist guide on pages 81-83



Turn to facing page to see our stockist guide and find a local yarn shop in your area.

Start knitting here

JUMPER BACK

Using 4mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on 99 (105, 111, 115, 121) sts

□ Row 1: [k1, p1] to last st, k1

This row sets moss st

□ Rep last row until work meas 11 (11.5, 11.5, 12, 12) cm

Change to yarn B

□ Beg with a k row, work in st st until yarn B block meas 11 (11.5, 11.5, 12, 12) cm, ending after a WS row

Change to yarn C

□ Beg with a k row, work 12 rows in st st

□ Next row: k1, ssk, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 97 (103, 109, 113, 119) sts

□ Beg with a p row, work seven rows in st st

□ Rep last eight rows once more. 95 (101, 107, 111, 117) sts

□ Next row: k1, ssk, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 93 (99, 105, 109, 115) sts

□ Cont in st st until yarn C block meas 11 (11.5, 11.5, 12, 12) cm, ending after a WS row

Change to yarn D

□ Cont in st st until yarn D block meas 11 (11.5, 11.5, 12, 12) cm, ending after a WS row

Pm at each end of last row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

□ Cast off 3 (4, 4, 5, 5) sts at beg of next two rows. 87 (91, 97, 99, 105) sts

□ Dec one st at each end of next three rows. 81 (85, 91, 93, 99) sts

□ P one row

□ Dec one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until 71 (77, 81, 85, 91) sts rem

□ Cont in st st until work meas 11.5 (12.5, 13.5, 14.5, 15.5) cm from markers

□ Work 20 rows in moss st

□ Cast off

FRONT

□ Work as for Back

SLEEVE (make two)

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn D, cast on 57 (59, 61, 63, 67) sts

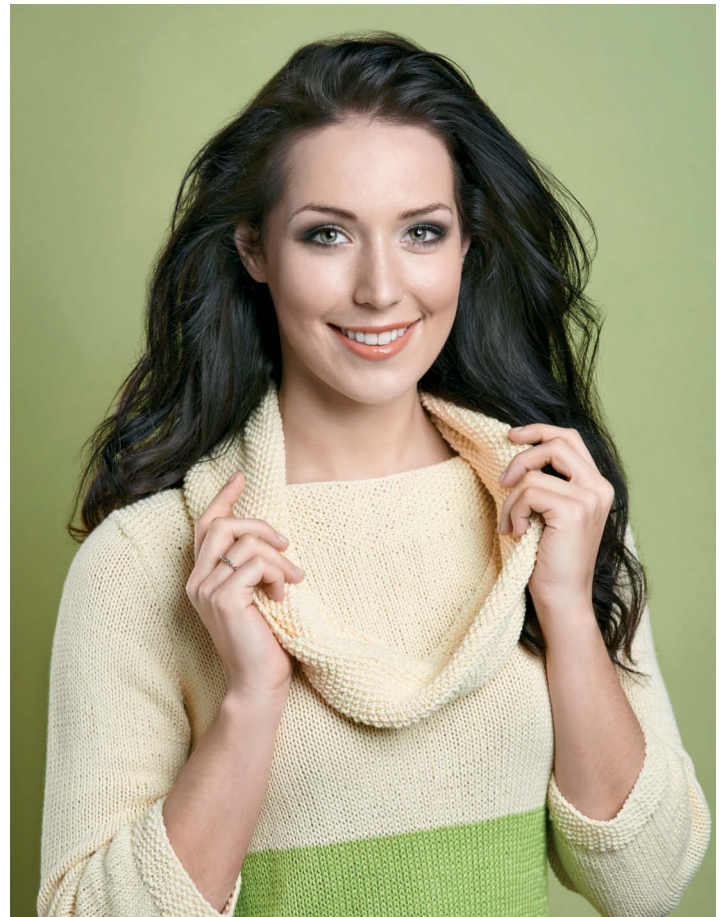
□ Row 1: [k1, p1] to last st, k1

This row sets moss st

□ Rep last row until work meas 3cm

Change to 4mm straight needles

□ Beg with a k row, work in st st inc one st at each end of next and every



knitwise

In a twist

This cowl isn't just a simple loop, it has a twist in the centre. Usually when joining the work in the round, you are told to check that your stitches aren't twisted on the needle but for this project that's just what you do want. Simply turn half your stitches around 360° so you have a twist on the cast-on edge - this project has 153 stitches, so just go as close to the centre point as you can. Now work in the pattern as normal, you'll see the twist becomes more prominent after you have knitted a few rows.

full eighth row until there are 71 (75, 81, 85, 89) sts

□ Cont in st st without shaping until Sleeve meas 32 (32, 32, 33, 33) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

SHAPE SLEEVE TOP

□ Cast off 3 (4, 4, 5, 5) sts at beg of next two rows. 65 (67, 73, 75, 79) sts

□ Dec one st at each end of next three rows. 59 (61, 67, 69, 73) sts

□ Beg with a p row, work 1 (3, 3, 3, 3) rows in st st without shaping

□ Dec one st at each end of next and foll alt rows until there are 37 (39, 41, 43, 45) sts, ending after a WS row

□ Dec one st at each end of next 8 (9, 10, 10, 10) rows. 21 (21, 21, 23, 25) sts

□ Cast off

To make up

Block all pieces to size and leave to dry. Sew shoulder seams at outer edge for 3-4cm. Pin Sleeve tops in position and stitch in place. Join side and Sleeve seams

COWL

Using 4mm (60cm) circular needle and yarn D, cast on 153 sts, twist roughly half the sts 360° before joining in the rnd, pm for beg of rnd

□ Rnd 1: [k1, p1] to last st, k1

□ Rnd 2: [p1, k1] to last st, p1

□ Rep Rows 1-2 until Cowl meas 17cm deep

□ Cast off in moss st

Block Cowl and leave to dry **LK**



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Measurements & Sizes

Dress size (approx):
4-6 (8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26)
To fit chest (cm):
71-76 (81-86, 91-97, 102-107, 112-117, 122-127)
Actual chest (cm):
78 (89, 99, 109, 120, 135)

Tension Square

19 sts (3 shells) x 8.5 rows
10cm x 10cm
over pattern
4mm hook

Crochet Kit

Yarn: (A) James C. Brett Cotton On, shade CO11 Sky Blue, 7 (8, 9, 10, 11, 13) 50g balls, (B) Stylecraft Eskimo DK, shade 6, Winter White, 3 (3, 3, 4, 5, 5) 50g balls
Hook: 4mm
Stitch markers

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Special Abbreviations

RdtrF: raised double treble front – [yoh] twice, insert hook through front of work between next two tr, take hook behind next st then bring back out to front of work, complete dtr as usual

RdtrB: raised double treble back – [yoh] twice, insert hook through back of work between next two tr, move hook in front of next st then take it through to back of work, complete dtr as usual

About the Yarn

James C. Brett Cotton On mixes 50% cotton and 50% acrylic to produce a lightweight yarn with a lovely drape. Stylecraft Eskimo DK is a polyester eyelash yarn that creates a fabulous fluffy effect. Both can be machine washed.

Need an Alternative?

Scheepjeswool Softfun is another cotton and acrylic blend that can also be machine washed. Yarn B can be substituted with King Cole Moments, another eyelash yarn that comes in some impressively bright shades.

Frosty Mornings

Keep warm against the lingering chills with Lesley Arnold-Hopkins' faux fur-trimmed gilet

The seasons are changing, but some days still have that wintry edge and this crocheted gilet is perfect for such occasions. It's made in a cotton blend yarn paired with an eyelash yarn for that snuggly faux fur feel, while the sleeveless design makes it ideal for layering. The stitch pattern is made up of treble crochet shells and a double treble cabling effect, so there is plenty of texture to keep your hook happy.

CABLE PANEL

NOTE: worked over eight sts

- Row 1 (RS): miss next two sts, 1RdtrF (see Crochet Clever, p86) in each of next two sts, 1RdtrF in each of two missed sts, crossing behind sts just worked, miss two sts, 1RdtrF in each of next two sts, 1RdtrF in each of two missed sts, crossing in front of sts just worked
 - Row 2: 1RdtrB in each st
 - Row 3: 1RdtrF in each st
 - Row 4: as Row 2
- These four rows set Cable panel

Start crocheting here

BACK

Using 4mm hook and yarn A, make 69 (81, 93, 99, 105, 123) ch
□ Foundation row (WS): beg in fourth ch from hook, 1tr in each ch to end. 67 (79, 91, 97, 103, 121) sts
□ Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), * miss two sts, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next st, miss two sts, 1tr in next st, rep from * to end. 11 (13, 15, 16, 17, 20) shells

NOTE: one rep from * equals one shell

Let's Shop

James C. Brett Cotton On costs £1.79 per 50g (145m) ball, Stylecraft Eskimo DK costs £1.99 per 50g (90m) ball, Scheepjeswool Softfun costs £3.09 per 50g (140m) ball and King Cole Moments costs £2.09 per 50g (90m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

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This row sets Shell patt

- Rep last row 27 times more

SHAPE ARMHOLE

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH SIZES ONLY

- Next row: sl st in each of next three sts, [3ch, 1tr] in ch sp in shell of row below, miss two sts, 1tr in next st, work in patt to last full shell (six sts), 2tr in ch sp in shell of row below, turn
- Next row: sl st in each of next three sts, 3ch (counts as 1tr), work in patt to end of last full shell, turn
- Rep these two rows 0 (1, 1, 1, -, -) times more. 9 (9, 11, 12, -, -) shells

FIFTH AND SIXTH SIZES ONLY

- Next row: sl st in each of next three sts, [3ch, 1tr] in ch sp in shell of row below, work in Shell patt to last full shell (six sts), miss two sts, 1tr in ch sp in shell of row below, turn
- Next row: sl st in each of next three sts, [3ch, 1tr] in ch sp in shell of row below, miss two sts, 1tr in next st, work in patt to last full shell (six sts), miss two sts, 2tr in ch sp in shell of row below, turn
- Next row: 1ch, sl st in each of next three sts, 3ch (counts as 1tr), work in Shell patt to end of last full shell, turn
- Rep last two rows once more. - (-, -, -, 11, 14) shells

ALL SIZES

- Work 19 (19, 19, 19, 20, 21) rows in patt without shaping
- Next row: 4ch (counts as 1dtr), * miss two sts, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next st, miss two sts, 1dtr in next st, rep from * to end
- Fasten off

LEFT FRONT

Using 4mm hook and yarn A, make 42 (48, 54, 60, 66, 72) ch
□ Foundation row: beg in fourth ch from hook, 1tr in each ch to end. 40 (46, 52, 58, 64, 70) sts
□ Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), * miss two sts, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next st, miss two sts, 1tr in next st, rep from * 1 [2, 3, 3, 4, 4] times, work Row 1 of Cable panel over next eight sts, 1tr in next st, ** miss two sts, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next st, miss two sts, 1tr in next st, rep from ** to end
Last row sets Shell patt with Cable panel
□ Keeping patt correct and working appropriate row of Cable panel, rep last row 27 times more
Pm at neck edge of last row (start of row for Left front)

SHAPE ARMHOLE

□ Shape armholes as for Back
AT THE SAME TIME dec at neck edge as folls:

SHAPE NECK

- Next row (dec half shell at neck edge): * work to last full shell (six sts), 2tr in ch sp of shell on row below, turn
- Next row: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in same st, miss two sts, 1tr in next st, work in Shell patt to end
- Work 2 (2, 4, 2, 4, 2) rows in Shell patt without shaping
- Next row (dec half shell at neck edge): work to last half shell (three sts), turn
- Work 2 (2, 4, 2, 4, 2) rows in Shell patt without shaping
- Rep neck shaping from * until there are 1 (1, 1, 1, 2, 2) shells on neck side of Cable panel
- Complete as for Back

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LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**



meet our
DESIGNER

"Given the structure of this crocheted fabric, it is often easier to think of it in terms of the number of shells, rather than the number of stitches."

LESLEY ARNOLD-HOPKINS

RIGHT FRONT

□ Complete to match Right front reversing shapings

POCKETS (make two)

Using 4mm hook and yarn A, make 24ch

□ Foundation row: beg in fourth ch from hook, 1tr in each ch to end. 22 sts

□ Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), miss two sts, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next st, miss two sts, 1tr in next st, work Row 1 of Cable panel over next eight sts, 1tr, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next st, miss two sts, 1tr in last st
Last row sets Shell patt with Cable panel

□ Keeping patt correct and working appropriate row of Cable panel, rep last row five times more

□ Fasten off

Join yarn B to beg of row with a sl st

□ Next row: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in each st to end

□ Rep last row once more

□ Fasten off

BELT

NOTE: made in two halves, each starting from the centre

Using 4mm hook and yarn A, make 9ch

□ Foundation row: beg in third ch from hook, 1tr in each ch to end. Seven sts

□ Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), miss two sts, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next st, miss two sts, 1tr in last st
Last row sets Shell patt

□ Rep last row until Belt meas 90 (100, 110, 120, 130, 140) cm

□ Fasten off yarn A

Join yarn B to beg of row with a sl st

□ Next row: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in each st to end

□ Rep last row once more

□ Fasten off

Rejoin yarn A to other side of foundation ch

□ Starting with Row 1, work to match first side

COLLAR

Sew shoulder and side seams

Using 4mm hook, rejoin yarn A at neck marker on right side front with a sl st

□ Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), work Shell pattern around edge of gilet to other marker, turn

NOTE: from marker to shoulder seam there should be 11 (11, 12, 12, 13, 13) shells, across back neck 3 (5, 5, 6, 3, 6) shells, and from shoulder seam to marker 11 (11, 12, 12, 13, 13) shells

□ Next row: 1ch, sl st in each of next three sts, 3ch (counts as 1tr), miss two sts, 1tr in next st, work in Shell patt to last full shell (six sts), miss two sts, 1tr in ch sp from prev row, turn
□ Rep last row
□ Fasten off

EDGING

Using 4mm hook, rejoin yarn B to base of right side seam with a sl st
□ Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in each of next 38 (44, 50, 56, 62, 68) sts of base of Right front, 3tr in bottom corner of Right front, 1tr in each of next 58 sts up front edge to start of Collar, 1tr in each st around Collar, 1tr in each of next 58 sts down front edge, 3tr in bottom corner of Left front, 1tr in each

st along base of Left front and base of Back, sl st in third of beg 3-ch to join in the rnd, turn

□ Next rnd: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in each st to end, working 3tr in corner at base of Right and Left front, sl st in third of beg 3-ch to join in the rnd, turn

□ Rep last rnd once more

□ Fasten off

BELT LOOPS (make two)

Using 4mm hook and yarn A, make 12ch

□ Fasten off

To make up

Sew Belt loops in place on side seams. Sew Pockets on to fronts, using photo as a guide. Thread belt through loops. Weave in all ends **LK**

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crochetclever

Raising the roof

Although cabling is more often associated with knitting, it is possible to create a similar effect in crochet. This is achieved by working around the stem of the stitch on the previous row, rather than going into the top of it as you usually would. For a raised double treble front, you need to insert your hook into the space to the right-hand side of the stitch below, then take the hook behind the stem of the next stitch and bring the hook back out to the front of the work. Then complete the rest of the stitch as you normally would. For a raised double treble back, you need to insert the hook from the back of the work.

James C. Brett



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STITCH IN TIME CONTINUED FROM P71

Weave cast-on yarn tail through sts on cast-on row, pull to gather. Sew side seam and weave in ends. Using clear thread, sew a pearl bead onto the centre

BAGS (make three)

Using 3.25mm dpns, yarn A and thumb method, cast on 21 sts and distribute them evenly over three needles, join in the rnd taking care not to twist sts

- Rnds 1-18: k
- Rnd 19 (eyelets): (k1, yfwd, k2tog) to end
- Rnds 20-21: k
- Work Picot cast-off (see Knitwise, p71)

Sew base closed and weave in ends. Attach Small flower to front of Bag. Cut two 25cm lengths of yarn B and weave through eyelets in opposite directions. Knot both ends to secure

SCISSOR CASE

Using 3mm straight needles, yarn A and thumb method, cast on three sts

- Rows 1-8: work as for Square base

- Rep Rows 7-8 until there are 23 sts, ending after a WS row
- Row 21 (RS): k1, skpo, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 21 sts
- Row 22: p1, k2, p to last three sts, k2, p1
- Rep Rows 21-22 until five sts rem, ending after a WS row
- Row 39 (RS): k1, sl 2 kwise, k1, p2sso, k1. Three sts
- Row 40: p1, k1, p1

LOOP

Change to 2.75 mm dpns

- Work an i-cord over these three sts until cord meas 5cm
- Next row: slide sts to other end of dpn, pass second and third sts over first and off needle. One st
- Fasten off, leaving a tail

Fold loop in half and secure on inside. Cut felt to fit inside knitted case, carefully oversew in place using clear thread. Positioning knitting in a diamond shape, fold two lower edges towards centre to form a kite shape. Sew seam closed

EDGING

- Using 2.75mm dpns and yarn A, with back of case facing, starting just below loop and working through furthest k st border, pick

up and k nine sts down first side, six sts across central seam and nine sts up final side. 24 sts

Move yarn in front of loop

- Next row: k to end
- Work picot cast off (see Knitwise, p71)

Sew edging seam. Fold a 40cm length of yarn B in half and thread each end on to a tapestry needle. Starting at bottom edge, sew a criss cross pattern along central seam, as shown. Knot ends to prevent them fraying

INSIDE CORDS

(make four)

Using 2.75mm dpns, yarn B and thumb method, cast on two sts

- Work an i-cord over these two sts until cord meas 14cm
- Next row: slide sts to other end of dpn, pass second st over first and off needle. One st
- Fasten off, leaving a tail

To make up

Weave in all yarn ends. Using knitted pieces as templates, cut stiff card 0.5cm smaller than each of the four Side triangles, Square base and Lining base square. Repeat with wadding, cutting

two pieces for each shape. Round off card corners and points to prevent them poking through. Sandwich card between wadding, securing with a few oversewn stitches. Place Side triangle and Square base inserts into hems. Make a 'cushion' of wadding, 1.5cm smaller than Lining base square, sew this to top of wadding/card piece. Place insert into Lining base square hem and sew panel on top of Square base hem. Cut wadding slightly smaller than Lining triangles, but large enough to cover Side triangle hem. Pin wadding to Side triangle hem and sew Lining triangle in place on top. Sew Large flowers to centre of Side triangles. Position Side triangles around Square base, ensuring two looped pieces are on opposite sides. Attach sides to base, keeping bottom edges parallel. Thread Inside cords through fabric six stitches down from top of Lining triangles. Thread cords through ties on Bags and fasten in a bow to secure. Scissor case is not attached to box. To close, fold up Side triangles and thread yarn ties through both loops **LK**

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Part 15: crochet special

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LK deputy editor **Adrienne Chandler** demonstrates the basic crochet stitches

HOLDING THE HOOK

There are two common ways to hold a crochet hook: like a knife or like a pen. The hook is usually held in the right hand, with the yarn in the left hand. However, there is no wrong way to do it; if you find a different way that gives you the same results, feel free to use it.

Like a knife



Like a pen



WORKING INTO THE FOUNDATION CHAIN

There are several ways of working into the foundation chain. Which you use is up to you:

BACK LOOP

This is the quickest and simplest method, but can leave gaps if you have loose stitches.

How to do it: insert your hook into the centre of each chain stitch



BACK LOOP AND BACK RIDGE

This is an easy method, which gives a neat, strong edge.

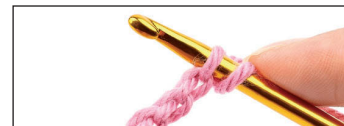
How to do it: insert your hook into the centre of each chain stitch, making sure the hook passes underneath the back ridge, then complete the stitch



BACK RIDGE

This method means the top and bottom edges of your piece will look the same.

How to do it: twist the chain so you can see the back ridge, and insert your hook into the back ridge, then complete the stitch



FRONT AND BACK LOOPS

This is the traditional way to work into a foundation chain.

How to do it: insert your hook underneath the front and back loops, then complete the stitch.

Use this method for working into the stitches on all following rows, unless instructed otherwise.

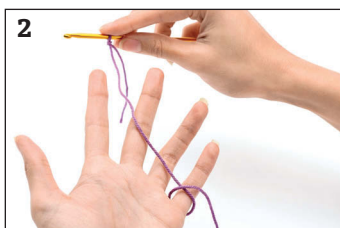


HOLDING THE YARN

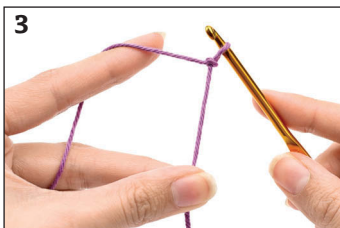
Again, there is no single correct way to do this. Here is one method of tensioning the yarn.



Step 1: take the yarn between your ring finger and little finger



Step 2: wrap the yarn around your little finger and take it between your index and middle finger



Step 3: bring the yarn in front of your index finger to tension it, and grip the work with your thumb and middle finger

FOUNDATION CHAIN

This forms the base of most crochet projects and will get you used to the movement of wrapping the yarn around the hook.



Step 1: make a slip knot and place it on the hook



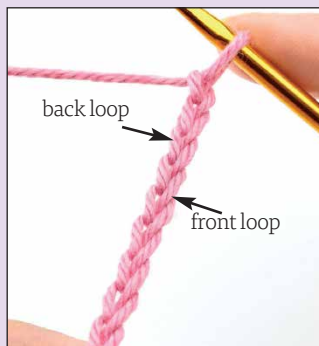
Step 2: tensioning the yarn as shown above, wrap the yarn around the hook from back to front (yoh)



Step 3: pull the hook through the slip knot, catching the yarn. You will have one loop on your hook. This is one chain stitch (ch)

Repeat Steps 2 and 3 to make more chain stitches – do not count the loop on your hook as a stitch

Finished chain: see how there a little 'v' shapes – one 'v' is one chain stitch. When looked at from above, you can see the two 'legs' of each 'v'. This is the front and back loop of the stitch



Back ridge: the back of each stitch has a little bump, this is called the back ridge

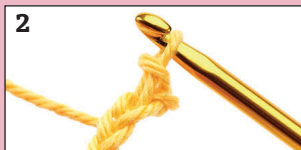


SLIP STITCH (SL ST)

This is a travelling stitch, which can be used for shaping. It is also useful for joining in yarn.



Step 1: insert hook into stitch or chain and wrap the yarn around the hook



Step 2: pull yarn through stitch and through loop that is already on your hook



Slip stitch edge

DOUBLE CROCHET (DC)

This is one of the easiest stitches to work and is used a lot in making crochet toys.



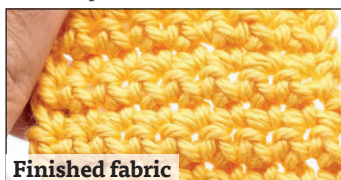
Step 1: insert hook into stitch or chain and wrap the yarn around the hook



Step 2: pull yarn through stitch, so you have two loops on your hook



Step 3: yoh and pull through both loops



Finished fabric

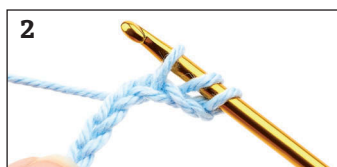
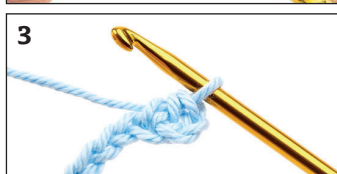
HALF TREBLE CROCHET (HTR)

This is a slightly taller stitch than double crochet

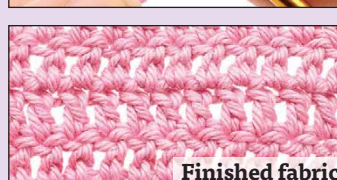
Step 1: yoh, then insert hook into stitch

Step 2: yoh, then pull yarn through stitch so there are three loops

Step 3: yoh and pull through all three loops



Finished fabric



Finished fabric

TREBLE CROCHET (TR)

An even taller stitch, this creates a slightly openwork fabric.

Steps 1-2: work as for a half treble stitch

Step 3: yoh and pull it through first two loops only

Step 4: yoh and pull it through last two loops on your hook

DOUBLE TREBLE (DTR)

Worked in a similar way to a treble crochet, this stitch makes tall, open stitches.

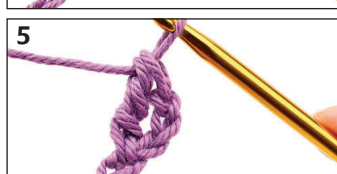
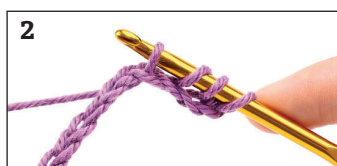
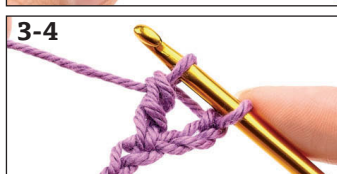
Step 1: yoh twice, then insert hook into stitch

Step 2: yoh, then pull yarn through stitch so there are four loops on your hook

Steps 3-4: work as for Step 3 of treble stitch

Step 5: work as for Step 4 of treble stitch

Even taller stitches can be worked by wrapping the yarn around the hook even more times before inserting the hook into the stitch.



Finished fabric

FASTENING OFF

To finish your work, simply cut the yarn leaving a tail, wrap the yarn around the hook, then pull it all the way through the loop



US TERMS

In America, they use slightly different terminology and abbreviations, which can be confusing. This table will help make it clear.

UK	US
Slip stitch (sl st or ss)	Slip stitch (sl st or ss)
Double crochet (dc)	Single crochet (sc)
Half treble crochet (htr)	Half double crochet (hdc)
Treble crochet (tr)	Double crochet (dc)
Double treble crochet	Treble/triple crochet (tr)



Knit School is sponsored by HiyaHiya. Find double-pointed, circular and interchangeable needles in stainless steel or bamboo varieties, plus notions and accessories. There is also a selection of crochet hooks, available in aluminium, nickel and acrylic. The hook used here is from the aluminium range. Visit www.hiyahiya-europe.com/stockists for further information.

TURNING CHAINS

When working back and forth in rows, you will need to work a chain or number of chains before starting the next row. This is called a turning chain. The taller the stitch, the more chains you need; for example, a double crochet needs just one chain to enable you to comfortably turn the work and start the next row. A very tall stitch like a double treble crochet will need four stitches to get you to the correct height. Your pattern will tell you if these chains count as a stitch. If this is the case, work into the last chain in this group at the end of the next row.



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- Two one month Surprise Yarn Club subscriptions and a runner-up prize of two mystery skeins with a hook from Little Boo Yarns. www.etsy.com/uk/shop/littlebooyarns

Turn the TABLES

Keep these pages handy to guide you on your way

YARN WEIGHTS

ABBREVIATIONS

o	no stitches, times or rows	skpo	slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
-	no stitches, times or rows for that size	sk2po	slip next stitch purlwise, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over and off needle
alt	alternate	sl 2, k1,	slip next two stitches knitwise at the same time, knit one, pass both slipped stitches over
approx	approximately	p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over and off needle
beg	beginning	sl 1	slip one stitch
C4F	(cable 4 front) slip two stitches on to cable needle, hold at front of work, k2, k2 from cable needle	sl st	slip stitch
C4B	(cable 4 back) slip two stitches onto cable needle, hold at back of work, k2, k2 from cable needle	sm	slip marker
ch	chain stitch	sp (s)	space(s)
ch sp	chain space	ssk	one by one slip the next two stitches knitwise. Put your left needle through the front loops of both slipped stitches and knit them together
cm	centimetres	st (s)	stitch (es)
cn	cable needle	st st	stocking stitch (k on RS row, p on WS row)
cont	continue (ing)	tbl	through the back loop (s)
dc	double crochet	tr	treble crochet
dc2tog	(insert hook into next stitch, yarn over hook, pull through loop) twice, yarn over hook, pull through all three loops on hook	w&t	(on knit rows) take the yarn between the needles to the front of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn (on purl rows) take the yarn between the needles to the back of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn
dec	decrease (ing)	WS	wrong side
dpn(s)	double pointed needle(s)	wyib	with yarn in back
dtr	double treble crochet	wyif	with yarn in front
foll	following	yb	yarn back
htr	half treble crochet	yfwd	yarn forward (between knit stitches)
inc	increase (ing)	yo	work yfwd/yon/yrn as appropriate
k	knit	yoh	yarn over hook
kfb	knit into the front and the back of the next stitch	yon	yarn over needle (between a purl and a knit stitch)
k2tog	knit two stitches together	yrn	yarn round needle (between purl stitches and between a knit and a purl stitch)
knwise	knitwise	y2rn	wrap yarn twice around needle
m1	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into the back of it	*	repeat instructions following the asterisk as many times as instructed
mp	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and purling into the back of it	□□	work instructions inside the brackets as many times as instructed
meas	measure (s)		
mm	millimeters		
N1 (2, 3)	needle 1 (2, 3)		
p	purl		
pb	place bead		
pfb	purl into the front and back of next st		
pm	place marker		
p2tog	purl two stitches together		
prev	previous		
psso	pass slipped stitch over and off needle		
p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over and off needle		
pwise	purlwise		
rem	remain (ing)		
rep	repeat (ing)		
rev st st	reverse stocking stitch (p on RS row, k on WS row)		
rm	remove marker		
rnd(s)	round(s)		
RS	right side		

YARN TYPE	STANDARD TENSION	STANDARD NEEDLE SIZE
Lace	30-33 sts-36-50 rows	2mm-3mm
4ply	28 sts-36 rows	3.25mm
DK	22 sts-28 rows	4mm
Aran	18 sts-24 rows	5mm
Chunky	14 sts-19 rows	6.5mm
Super Chunky	9 sts-12 rows	10mm

NEEDLE SIZING		
UK (mm)	U.S.A	Old UK/Canada
2	0	14
2.25	1	13
2.75	2	12
3	-	11
3.25	3	10
3.5	4	-
3.75	5	9
4	6	8
4.5	7	7
5	8	6
5.5	9	5
6	10	4
6.5	10 1/2	3
7	-	2
7.5	-	1
8	11	0
9	13	00
10	15	000
12	17	-
15	-	-
16	19	-
19	35	-
20	36	-
25	50	-



TENSION HEADACHE

It's really important to knit tension square before you begin a project. Not everybody knits the same way - some knit more tightly than others - and this will affect how the stitch pattern looks and the finished size of the item. Tension squares are usually presented like this:

22 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

To knit your tension square, cast on the instructed number of stitches, in this case 22, plus five more. Then, using the needle size and same stitch pattern given, work the instructed number of rows, plus five more. Using a ruler and taking your measurements from the centre of the square, count the number of stitches and number of rows over a 10cm square. If you have more than you should do, it means your knitting is a little tight and you may need to use larger needles. Similarly, if you have fewer stitches and rows, use smaller needles to get the correct tension.

"Using the correct size of needles for the yarn weight helps to produce a taut, neat fabric"



AT A LOOSE END?

Follow these steps for weaving in any tails of yarn:

1. Thread the yarn on to a tapestry needle and work with the WS of the project facing upwards.
2. Insert the needle under the loop of each stitch, and draw it through. Work it

up and down the loops of the stitches for 8cm. An alternative method is to weave through the back of the stitch, splitting the strand of yarn as you sew.

3. Cut the yarn close to the fabric.

NOTE: In colourwork, weave the yarn tails into the matching colour section.

SUBSTITUTION

There are many reasons to want to substitute the yarn given in a project, from price to colour selection, but there are some important points to remember.

- Choose a yarn with a similar tension to the suggested yarn. Match the tension given on the ball band of the yarns, as the pattern may use a different stitch. Remember to do a tension square in the new yarn before you begin.
- Consider the fibre content of the yarn and how this might affect the finished project. For example, cotton yarn will knit up very differently to a wool yarn.



- Don't forget to check the care instructions of your new yarn. Not all yarns are machine washable.

- Look at the meterage of the new yarn, rather than the weight of the ball. Not all 50g balls have the same meterage and you don't want to run short when nearing the end of your project.

ON THE BLOCKS

Blocking is the process of stretching and shaping your finished items to create the correct dimensions from the pattern and even out your stitches. It is also really useful for ensuring that pieces to be joined fit well together. There are a few different ways to achieve this, so check the information on the yarn ball band and pick the most suitable option.

Wet blocking: dampen the pieces so that they are wet through and gently squeeze out the excess water. Lay out the pieces and pin them to the correct measurements,

then leave them to dry. For delicate fibres and lace projects, you can just spritz the pieces with a water spray, rather than submerging them fully.

Steaming: lay a damp cloth over your work and gently iron over the top – do not iron directly on to your knitting. Continue to iron until the cloth is dry. Another option is to gently hover over your work with the iron and apply steam until the knitting relaxes, this is good for delicate projects and textured stitches. Pin to the desired measurements and allow to set.

Pattern UPDATES

Here at LK we try our hardest to make sure our patterns are free from errors, but sometimes they do slip through the net. Here you will find our latest pattern updates; we apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have any queries about one of our patterns, please call **01206 508622** or email support@letsknit.co.uk. For further updates visit www.letsknit.co.uk

LK88, January

Gentle Whisper, p37

There is a correction to the Back Neck Shaping

- Row 2: k to marker, k3, w&t

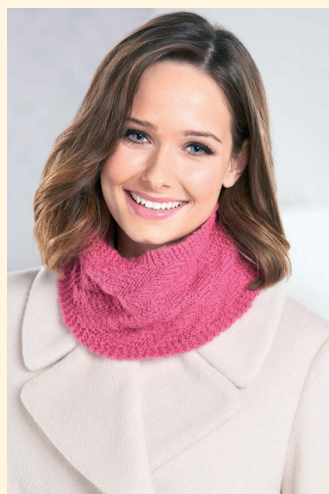
There are also corrections to the lace pattern.

- Rnd 7 (written instructions):

k3, yfwd, sk2po, **yfwd**, k4

- Rnds 10, 12, 14, 28, 32 and 34: k to end, remove marker, k1, replace marker. This is the new start of rnd

Updated chart available at www.letsknit.co.uk



LK89, February

Sunset Fields, p13

The rows have been mis-numbered towards the end and should read:

- Rows 90-137: rep Rows 78-89
- Rows 138-145: rep Rows 78-85



Deep Sea, p35

The eyelet row on the Edge should be worked as follows:

- Eyelet row: k1, * (p1, k1) twice, **yrn**, p2tog, rep from * to last st, k1

Step-BY-Step

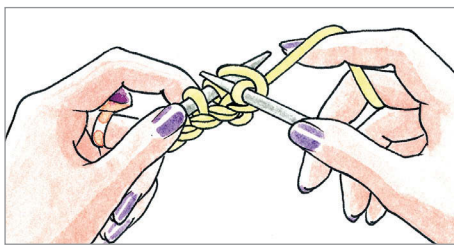
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KNIT STITCH



1 Once cast on, insert the tip of the right needle upwards and from front to back into the top stitch on the left needle. The right hand needle should sit behind the left hand one. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the tip of the right hand needle.



2 Using the right hand needle, pull a loop of the wrapped yarn through the original stitch to create a new one on the right hand needle. Slide the original stitch off the left hand needle. Repeat from step one. You are now knitting! The knit stitch can be combined with other stitches to create hundreds of different stitch patterns.

HELPING HAND

If you need a refresher on basic knitting techniques, visit our website www.letsknit.co.uk.

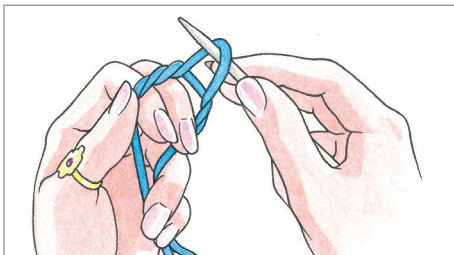
You'll also find the following step-by-step instructions in the magazine:

How to crochet p89

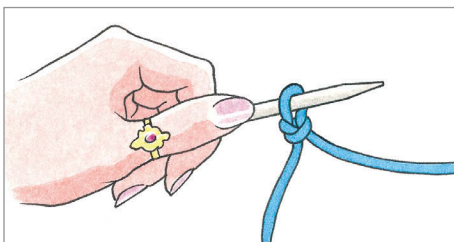
p89



MAKING A SLIP KNOT

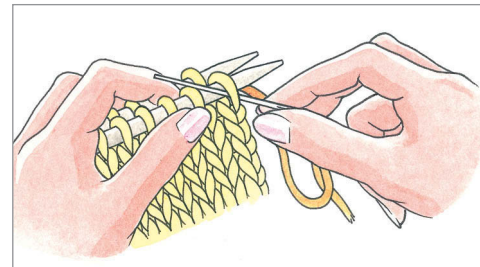


1 Holding the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, and pull the second loop under the first.



2 Remove the two fingers and gently tug on both ends of yarn to tighten the slip knot around the needle.

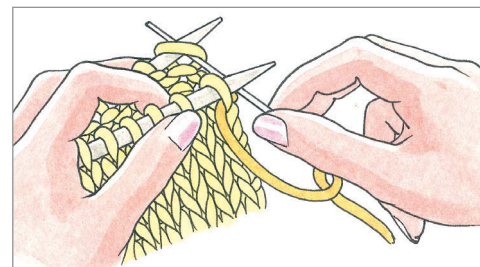
GRAFT THE TOE



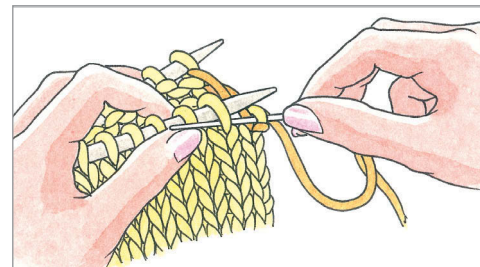
Kitchener Stitch is the method used to achieve this. It is worked as follows:

SET UP: Before starting you need to prepare the stitches on the needle. Hold the two needles with the remaining stitches parallel. The loose end of yarn should be coming from the back needle and lying to the right of the work.

1 Thread yarn end onto a tapestry needle and insert it purlwise into the first stitch on the needle closest to you. Pull the yarn through but leave the stitch on the needle.



2 Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the back needle and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

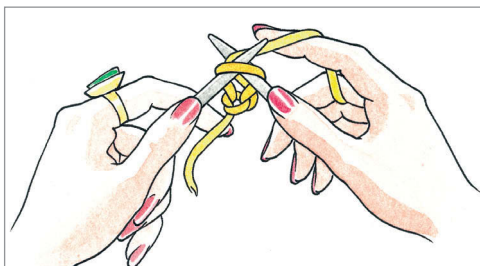


3 Having set up as shown in steps 1 and 2, repeat steps 3 and 4 until all stitches have been grafted. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the front needle and slide the stitch off. Before you pull the yarn through this stitch insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the front needle purlwise and pull the yarn through, this time leaving the stitch on the needle.

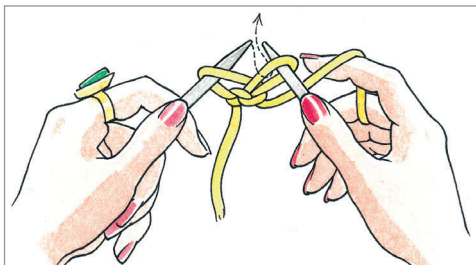


4 Insert the tapestry needle purlwise into the first stitch on the back needle and slide it off. Before pulling the yarn through this stitch, insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the back needle knitwise and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

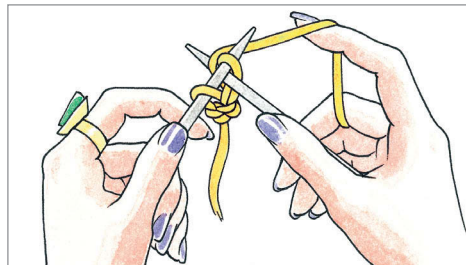
CABLE CAST ON



1 Create a slipknot on your left hand needle, pulling it taut (but not too tight). Carefully insert the right needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the point of the right needle.



2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch (knot) and insert the tip of the left hand needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer it from the right hand to the left hand needle. There should now be two stitches on the left hand needle.

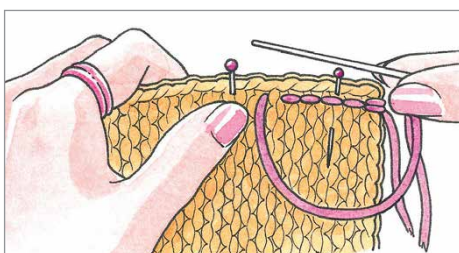


3 Insert the right needle between the two stitches on the left needle and wrap the yarn around the needle tip anticlockwise. Draw this loop through to make a stitch and slip it up and onto the left needle. Repeat this creating a new loop behind the last stitch and passing it left needle in front of the previous one.

BACK STITCH

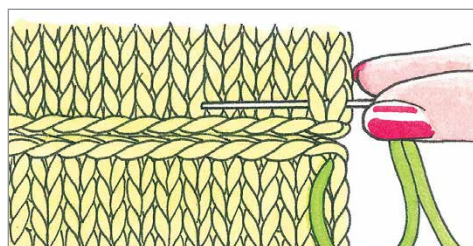


1 Pin the pieces to be joined, with the right sides together. Thread the loose end of yarn onto a tapestry needle. Start by stitching the two outer edges together, then bring the needle through the two pieces 1cm from back to front ahead of the previous stitch.

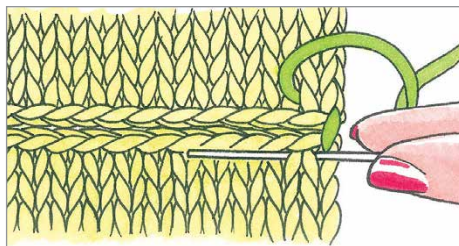


2 Push the needle back through at the position where the yarn emerged from the previous stitch. Return it to the front of the work, approx 1cm ahead of the stitch just made. Repeat this until the whole join is complete, working in a straight line.

JOINING CAST OFF EDGES

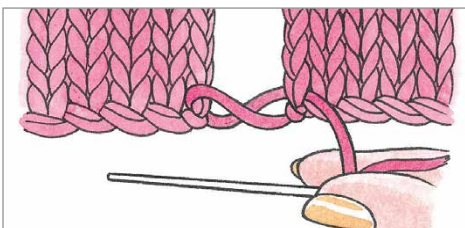


1 Lay the two pieces to be joined right side up and with the cast off edges touching. Thread a tapestry needle with the loose yarn and push this through the centre of the first stitch, and then in and out through the centres of two stitches on the opposite side.



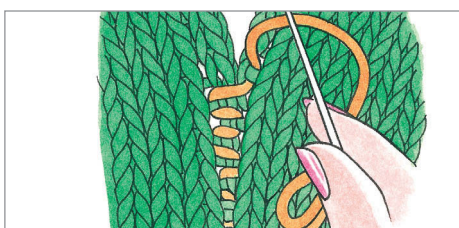
2 Take the needle over to the first side and insert where it previously exited, bringing it out through the centre of the next stitch. Repeat this process alternating sides and stitching single stitches until the pieces are joined.

BEGINNING A SEAM



1 With the pieces placed next to each other with right side upwards, thread the yarn tail through the fabric after the first stitch, moving the needle from front to back. Then, take the needle behind the first stitch on the second piece from the back of the work to the front. The yarn will form a figure 8. Tug gently to secure.

MATTRESS STITCH



1 With the two pieces to be joined lying next to each other, hook the horizontal bar of the first stitch with the tapestry needle. Move to the other piece and hook the first horizontal bar of the stitch on that side.
2 Repeat this moving from one piece to the next and pulling the yarn to tighten the join.

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Web Watch...

*with Samantha Hinks from
Unbelieva-wool*

**Can you tell us a little more about the story behind
Unbelieva-wool?**

Unbelieva-wool came about when I developed a love for hand dyed yarn, but couldn't quite find the specific yarn I actually wanted. So in true Sam-style I decided to give it ago myself! A few people admired my yarns and asked if I'd dye some for them. I never I thought I'd be dyeing yarns for quite so many people!

**Why did you make the decision to set up your own shop on Etsy
and sell your own yarns?**

I use my Etsy shop to support my Facebook page, which is where I sell most of my yarns. Unbelieva-wool enables me to stay at home and look after my three young children, and it's so much fun! I get to play with colour, be at home for my children and still be able to financially contribute to my family, which is very important to me.

**You're part of a group of indie dyers called Yarn Mama - what
is Yarn Mama all about, and how did you get started?**

Yarn Mama came about from an idea we all had of working together. A few of us used to collaborate in one-off yarn boxes and use each other's products in special yarn treat boxes - we thought it would be great to have one central online location where people could buy from lots of different dyers. As we're all work-at-home mums (we have 25 children between us!) and our passion is yarn, Yarn Mamas was born.

**Why do you think it's important for knitters and crocheters to
support independent dyers such as yourself?**

I think supporting small businesses is vital to everyone. Without my customers I couldn't exist. By buying from indie dyers you can ensure there will always be unique yarns available to you. It means there will always be variety on the market for that special project.



To see the full range of products
please visit
www.etsy.com/uk/shop/unbelievawool and
find them on Facebook

It is incredibly rewarding to make a career out of something you are passionate about

We've been catching up with **Laura Strutt** about knitting, crafting and her creative life

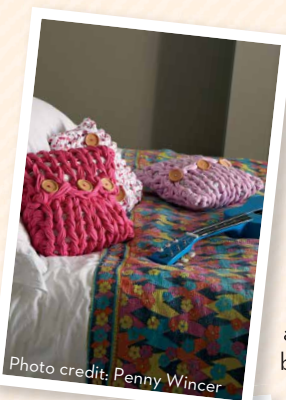


Laura is certainly no stranger to Let's Knit – back in the day, she used to be our deputy editor! Now a freelance journalist, knitting is something that is still integral to Laura's life. Her latest book, *Arm & Finger Knitting*, is filled with 35 modern projects designed to be made without the use of needles, and her online blog, *Made Peachy*, is a wealth of ideas and inspiration. Creativity certainly isn't something that's missing in this crafter's life!

I learnt to knit as a child – I was taught by my mum and grandmothers. I didn't really get struck down with the knitting bug until I was backpacking in Australia and my first nephew was born. Suddenly all I wanted to do was knit baby sweaters, blankets, teddies and booties! I went online to watch videos to remind me how to cast on – I was hooked!

Knitting is such a rewarding pastime. I love that you can work on creating a design that really challenges and stretches you, or you can choose something a little more simple that is just as fun and relaxing to work on. It is incredibly rewarding to have the opportunity to make a career out of something that you are passionate about. It's also immensely satisfying to see your finished makes in books, online and magazines – and to see other people making them, too!

Made Peachy is my Creative Lifestyle Journal. It is like an online scrapbook of my ideas and inspiration – I love trying out new techniques, projects, recipes and DIY makes and sharing them! Recently I have been doing a lot of knitting and crochet for work so there have been lots of projects on the go at once. I do like to have some simple socks on the needles just for me – it's very satisfying to knit something for yourself, even if it's only a couple of rows at a time!



I've recently had a brand new book come out called *Arm & Finger Knitting*. Arm and finger knitting takes many of the techniques from knitting and translates them to work with only your arms and hands without the use of needles. This is a fantastic way to create rich textures and super-sized designs in no time at all. It's rewarding for beginners and more advanced knitters alike!

If you're a designer or a knitter who's just starting out, try keeping a sketch book or journal for your designs or knitting ideas.

This is a great way to keep track of your favourite fibres and yarns, and it will help you to learn how different yarns behave and how to achieve different techniques. Keep clippings from fashion and home magazines of images and styles that you like, stick in yarn samples and ball bands to create a running workbook. It will not only help to keep track of your makes, but it will be fantastic to reflect on when you are in need of fresh inspiration!

To find out more about Laura and her crafty life, head over to www.madepeachy.com

TOP FIVE

Laura's top choice of yarns in her stash

- Cascade 220** – If I could have a skein in each colourway, I would be a very happy knitter!
- Lion Brand Kitchen Cotton** – A real stash staple – brilliant for garments and accessories alike.
- We Are Knitters fabric yarns** – Such fun to knit and crochet with.
- Malabrigo lace** – These hand-dyed yarns are fabulous for creating truly stunning shawls and feel so luxurious to knit and wear.
- Artesano Definition Sock Yarn** – Footwear should be both colourful and cosy and this yarn is the perfect combination of both!



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